Daily Report

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NOTICE TO READERS: On 6 May 1991, the DAILY REPORT will begin phasing in new radio and television sourcelines that reflect how a station identifies itself. This change eliminates the "Domestic Service" and "Television Service" designations in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

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Law on Constitutional Provisions

AU0105152091 Tirana ATA in English 0913 GMT 1 May 91

[Law on the Major Constitutional Provisions of the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania]

[Text]**Decided**

Chapter One

General Provisions

Article 1

Albania is a parliamentary republic. National sovereignty stems from the people and belongs to them.

Article 2

The Republic of Albania is a juridical and democratic state.

Man's dignity, his rights and freedoms, free development of his personality as well as the constitutional order, equality before the law, social justice and pluralism are the foundations of this state, whose duty is to observe and defend them .

Article 3

The fundamental principle of state organization is the division of the legislative, executive power and judicial one.

The people exercise their power through their representative organs and referendum as well.

The representative organs are elected by free, general, equal, direct and secret ballot .

State activity is exercised only by the state organs recognized by law .

Article 4

The Republic of Albania recognizes and guarantees the fundamental human rights and freedoms, those of national minorities, admitted in the international documents.

Article 5

The legislative power belongs to the People's Assembly of the Republic of Albania.

The head of the state is the president of the Republic elected by the People's Assembly.

The rights and duties of the president are set by this law.

The supreme organ of the executive power is the Council of Ministers.

The rights and duties of the Council of Ministers are set by this law.

The judicial power is excercised by courts which are independent and are guided only by law.

Article 6

Political pluralism is one of the fundamental conditions of democracy in the Albanian state.

The political parties and other organizations, are created and exercise their activity according to the law. They are fully separated from the state.

It is prohibited the activity of political parties in military units and institutions of the Ministry of Defence and the minister of the interior, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and diplomatic representations abroad, the attorney's offices, investigation offices, courts, etc. The departization and depoliticization of organs is done by law.

Article 7

The Republic of Albania is a secular state.

The state observes the freedom of religious belief and creates conditions to exercise it.

Article 8

The legislation of the Republic of Albania considers, recognizes and observes the principles and norms of the international law generally accepted.

The strict and similar application of juridical norms is compulsory for all the state organs, political parties, other organizations, employees as well as for other physical and juridical persons.

All the citizens are equal to the law.

Article 9

Concerning the relations with foreign countries the Republic of Albania defends the national independence and interests, pursues the policy of cooperation and good neighbourliness, international peace and security.

The Republic of Albania takes care for the recognition and observation of the national and democratic rights of the Albanians residing outside the state borders of the Republic.

Article 10

The country's economy is based on the diversity of ownership, free initiative of all economic subjects and the regulatory role of the state.

Economic initiative of juridical and physical persons cannot develop contrary to the social interest and should not impair the security, freedom and dignity of man.

Article 11

Subjects of the right to ownership are the state, juridical and physical persons .

All kinds of ownership are equally defended by law.

The assets which are objects of the state property are set by law.

Article 12

The foreign juridical and physical person may gain the right to ownership under the conditions foreseen and guaranteed by law.

The foreign physical and juridical person is guaranteed the right to carry out independent economic activity, to invest at home, to form joint ventures and his own under the circumstances set by law. He is also guaranteed the right to transfer profits.

Article 13

It is incumbent upon the juridical and physical persons to contribute to defray the state expenditure in relation to their income.

No tax or levy can be established, but by law.

Article 14

The trade unions recognized by law are juridical persons and may sign collective working contracts with the public or private subjects. The way of reaching contracts is defined by law .

Chapter II

The Supreme Organs of the State Power

a. The People's Assembly

Article 15

The People's Assembly is the highest organ of the state power and the only law-making organ.

The People's Assembly exerts sovereignty in the name of the people and state, in the forms and boundaries foreseen by this law.

Article 16

The People's Assembly has the following main competences:

1. It defines the main directions of the internal and foreign policy of the state.

2. It approves and changes the Constitution and the laws, decides definitely upon the reconciliation of the laws with the Constitution and makes their interpretation.

3. It approves the economic and social draft programs of the country's development and the synthetic indices, as well as the state budget.

4. It decides on the partial and general mobilisation, the state of emergency and the state of war in case of armed aggression against the Republic of Albania or when this is necessary to fulfill obligations deriving from the international treaties.

5. It ratifies and denounces:

the treaties of political character;

the treaties or agreements of military character;

the treaties or agreements which have to do with the borders of the Republic of Albania

the treaties or agreements which have to do with the fundamental rights and duties of the citizens;

the treaties from which derive financial obligations for the state;

treaties of agreements leading to changes to the legislation;

treaties and other agreements which foresee that their ratification or denunciation be done by the People's Assembly.

6. It grants amnesty.

7. It decides on people's referendums.

8. It elects and discharges the president of the Republic of Albania.

9. It elects, appoints and discharges the Supreme Court, the attorney general and his substitutes.

10. It controls the activity of the Council of Ministers and the attorney's general office.

11. It controls the activity of RTV, ATA and other official media of public information, depending on it. The status of these organs is set by law.

12. It defines the administrative-territorial structure of the country.

13. It decides on the creation or dissolution of the ministries or other organs equal to them.

Article 17

The People's Assembly is made up of 250 deputies.

The People's Assembly is elected for a 4 year period.

The People's Assembly convenes the first session no later than two months from the day it is elected.

The elections to the People's Assembly are held no later than 3 months from the day its mandate expires.

In case of war or state of emergency the People's Assembly can prolong its activity beyond the fixed limit as long as the war or the state of emergency continues.

Article 18

The People's Assembly elects its Presidency, which is made up of the chairman and two deputy chairmen.

The activity of the People's Assembly and its Presidency is conducted according to the regulation it has adopted.

Article 19

The People's Assembly convenes its sessions no less than 4 times a year.

The sessions of the People's Assembly convene on the decision of its Presidency. The Presidency convenes the session of the People's Assembly when this is also required by the president of the Republic, the Council of Ministers or by one fourth of the deputies.

The meetings of the People's Assembly start when the majority of the deputies is present.

The meetings of the People's Assembly are open, except in special cases when the People's Assembly decides otherwise.

Article 20

The People's Assembly elects from its ranks permanent and temporary commissions.

In its first session the People's Assembly elects a commission to examine the mandates of the deputies. At the proposal of this commission, the People's Assembly confirms or annuls the mandates of the deputies.

It is incumbent upon the permanent commissions to examine the draft laws and normative decrees of the president of the Republic, to follow and control the activity of the ministries and other state organs according to the respective sectors and to forward problems to the People's Assembly or the Council of Ministers. The temporary commissions are created for certain questions.

Article 21

It is the duty of the deputy to the People's Assembly in his activity to serve the people and homeland conscientiously. The rights and duties of the deputy are defined by law.

Article 22

The deputy to the People's Assembly enjoys immunity.

The deputy cannot be prevented from accomplishing his duties and obtaining the data which are not state secret.

The deputy cannot be controlled, detained, arrested or penally prosecuted without the consent of the People's Assembly. The deputy may be detained without the consent of the People's Assembly only in cases when he commits an apparent and grave crime.

The deputy has no legal responsibility for the acts he makes and the stands he adopts while performing his duty as deputy or for the vote he casts.

Article 23

The law-making initiative belongs to the president of the Republic, the Council of Ministers, to every deputy, as well as to a group of 20,000 nationals enjoying the right of voting.

The laws and other acts of the People's Assembly besides the constitutional ones, are considered approved, when voted by the majority of the present deputies, but no less than one third of deputies.

The laws are declared no later than 15 days following the approval and enter into force 15 days after being published in the official gazette, except for the cases when foreseen differently by the laws as well as the cases of organic laws.

b. The president of the Republic of Albania

Article 24

The president of the Republic of Albania is the head of state and represents the whole unity of the people.

Article 25

The president of the Republic of Albania, is elected by the People's Assembly having no less than two candidates for 5 years, by a secret ballot, and by a two-thirds majority of the votes of all the deputies. In case the required majority is not ensured in the first ballot, a second voting is held in which the president of the Republic is elected by the absolute majority all the deputies' votes.

The candidate for president is proposed to the People's Assembly by a group of no less than 30 deputies.

In case there are more than two candidates for the post of the president of the Republic, in the second voting the two candidates that have won the greatest number of votes in the first voting have the right to be put up. The candidate that wins the absolute majority of all the deputies' votes considered elected.

Article 26

President of the Republic may be elected every Albanian national that has reached the age of 40 and that fulfills the conditions to be elected as deputy. [sentenced as received]

The president of the Republic after being elected by the People's Assembly, takes the oath before it.

The election of the president of the Republic is made no later than 30 days before the mandate of the former president of the Republic expires.

The same person cannot be elected president of the Republic more than twice in succession.

In case the president is elected from among the the ranks of the deputies, he gives up the mandate of the deputy.

The function of the president is irreconcilable with any other function, besides those foreseen by this law.

Article 27

The president of the Republic is discharged or released before the expiry of his mandate only when:

a) He has committed the crime of betrayal to the homeland or has violated this law.

b) His health condition prevents his from performing the duties.

c) He has put up his resignation on his free will.

Article 28

Follow the main competences of the president of the Republic:

1. Guarantees the observation of this law, other laws and rights and freedoms of citizens.

2. Convenes the first session of the new legislature of the People's Assembly .

3. Fixes the date of elections to the People's Assembly and local power organs.

4. Declares the laws and referendums decided upon by the People's Assembly.

5. Enjoys the right, within 15 days since the approval of the law by the People's Assembly, to put it up for reexamination by the People's Assembly only once.

6. Appoints the chairman of the Council of Ministers and accepts his resignation.

7. Upon the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Ministers, between the two sessions of the People's Assembly, appoints, discharges or releases separate members of the government. The president of the Republic submits this decree for approval to the People's Assembly in its nearest meeting.

8. He appoints and discharges upon the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Ministers leaders of other central institutions.

9. Having the opinion of the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly, he may dissolve the People's Assembly prior to the expiry of the legislature, when its composition does not allow the performace of the functions of the assembly itself and makes impossible the country's running. On this occasion, the elections to the People's Assembly are held again no later than 45 days since the day of dissolution.

The president cannot exercise this competence over the last six month period of his mandate.

10. He signs international treaties, ratifies and denounces those not examined by the People's Assembly itself .

11. He appoints and discharges the diplomatic representatives upon the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

12. Accepts the credentials and letters of call of the diplomatic representatives of foreign states.

13. Endorses the requirements for granting or casting off Albanian nationality.

14. Exercises the right of pardon.

15. Awards decorations and honourable titles.

16. Grants the right for political asylum.

17. When it is impossible for the People's Assembly to convene he declares the partial and general mobilization as well as the state of emergency. In such cases the declaration is submitted for approval to the People's Assembly within five days.

18. When the convocation of the People's Assembly is impossible, declared the state of war in case of armed aggression against the Republic of Albania.

19. Issues decrees of individual character and decisions, in urgent cases issues even decrees of normative character, which are submitted for approval to the People's Assembly in its nearest session.

Article 29

The acts issued by the president of the Republic on the exertion of competences foreseen in the items 10, 11 and 19 of Article 27 of this law, assume juridical power and are countersigned, accordingly, by the chairman of the Council of Ministers or by the respective minister or the persons equalled with them.

Article 30

When the seat of the president of the Republic is vacant for any reason whatsoever, his competences are exercised temporarily by the chairman of the Presidency of the People's Assembly, excluding those foreseen in the items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 19 of the Article 27 of this law.

The election of the president of the Republic takes place no later than 15 days from the day when the seat of the president has remained vacant.

Article 31

The president of the Republic does not respond for the acts committed during his function, the cases of treason to the homeland or violation of this law excluded.

In such cases, the question of responsibility might be discussed at the People's Assembly at the request of no less than one fourth of deputies. The respective decision is adopted by secret ballot with a majority of two thirds of the deputies.

Article 32

The president of the Republic of Albania is general commander of the Armed Forces and chairman of the Council of Defence.

The Council of Defence is created to direct, organise and mobilise all the forces and the country's resources for the defence of the homeland.

The composition of the Council of Defence is assigned by the People's Assembly on the proposal of the chairman of the Council of Defence.

Chapter III

Supreme Organs of State Administration

Article 33

The Council of Ministers is the highest executive and legislative organ.

The Council of Ministers is assigned in the first session of the People's Assembly.

The president of the Republic assigns the chairman of the Council of Ministers and upon the proposal of the latter the ministers too.

The composition of the government and its programme are adopted by the People's Assembly with majority of votes, within 5 days from the date it is submitted.

In case he does not get the vote of confidence, the chairman of the Council of Ministers immediately submits his resignation to the president of the Republic, who assigns the new chairman of the Council of Ministers.

Before resuming the functions, the chairman of the Council of Ministers and the ministers swear before the president of the Republic.

Article 34

The deputies enjoy the right to forward at any time a lack of confidence motion towards the Council of Ministers or its separate members. The lack of confidence motion should be signed by at least one tenth of the deputies and can be examined by the People's Assembly only after three days of its presentation.

Non-approval by the People's Assembly of a proposal forwarded by the government does not necessarily bring about the compulsory resignation of the government.

Article 35

The Council of Ministers is made of: the chairman, vice-chairmen, the ministers and other persons defined by law.

Any Albanian citizen residing permanently in the Republic of Albania and enjoying the right to be elected might be in the composition of the Council of Ministers.

The members of the Council of Ministers should not have, except for the mandate of the deputy, any other state or professional function and should not take part in leading organisms of economic and trade organisations.

The member of the Council of Ministers may leave his seat vacant even when he does not ensure the vote of confidence or when resigns. The Council of Ministers is a collegial organ. Decisions are adopted when approved by the absolute majority of its members.

The ministers respond collegially for the acts of the Council of Ministers and individually for acts of their institutions.

The composition, attributes and organisation of the Council of Ministers are arranged by law.

Article 36

The Council of Ministers has the following main competences:

1. Directs the activity for the realisation of the domestic and foreign policy of the state.

2. Issues the decisions, ordinances and instructions in compliance with the Constitution and laws and on their implementation. They are signed by the chairman of the Council of Ministers and, when having a normative character, are published in the official gazette, excluding separate cases foreseen by law.

3. Guides and controls the activity of ministries and and other central organs of the state administration .

Coordinates and monitors the activity of local organs of administration ensuring the compulsory and similar implementation of the laws and acts of the government.

4. Directs the activity for the fulfilment of the tasks in the field of the country's defence, conform the decisions of the Council of Defence.

5. Adopts measures on security, the preservation and strengthening of juridical order and of the citizens' rights.

6. Reaches international agreements, adopts and denounces those that are not subjected to ratification.

7. Works out economic and social programmes of the country's developments and the synthetic economic indices, the state budget, pursues and controls their implementation, coordinates, disciplines and controls the state finances and the monetary and credit system.

8. Makes the division or unification of the administrative-territorial units.

9. Adopts measures to ensure the protection of the environment, the suitable working conditions and the protection of the citizens' health.

Article 37

The Council of Ministers invalidates the illegitimate acts of the ministries and other central organs of state administration.

Article 38

The chairman and the vice-chairmen of the Council of Ministers constitute the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

By the decision of the Council of Ministers, the Presidency may be charged to examine and solve various questions under its competences.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers represents the Council of Ministers, presides over its meetings, directs its general activity and responds for it, ensures the unity of political and administrative management of the government, coordinating the affairs of the ministries and other central institutions.

Article 39

The ministers and other persons equalled with them, direct the ministries and the other central institutions in certain branches of the respective ministries.

The ministers bear responsibility for the activity of respective ministries.

The ministers, on questions under their competences, issue orders, regulation and instructions based on the laws and ordinances and decisions of the Council of Ministers and on their implementation. The acts of ministers of normative character are issued in the official gazette, special cases foreseen by law excluded.

Article 40

The ministers abrogate unlawful orders and instructions of the subordinate organs, enterprises and institutions.

Article 41

The members of the Council of Ministers respond penally to the violation of this law as well as of other laws related to the exercise of their function. The penal prosecution is approved by the People's Assembly.

Chapter IV

Final Provisions

Article 42

The creation, organisation and activity of the local organs of power, administration, courts and attorney general are made according to certain regulations with existing legal provisions, excluding those that run contrary to this law.

The investigator's office depends administratively on the minister of justice.

Article 43

The drafts for amendments to this law might be forwarded by the president of the Republic of Albania, the Council of Ministers or one fourth of all the deputies.

The adoption of amendments is done by the People's Assembly with a majority of two thirds of all the deputies.

Article 44

The provisions of this law operate till the adoption of the Constitution of the Republic of Albania, whose draft will be worked out by the special commission charged by the People's Assembly.

The composition of the commission and the schedule of the presentation of the draft-constitution is defined by special decision of the People's Assembly.

Article 45

The Constitution of the PSRA [People's Socialist Republic of Albania], adopted on 28.12.1976, as well as its later amendments is invalidated.

Article 46

This law enters into force immediately.

Tirana, 29.4.1991

Law No: 7491

Miners Strike Over Working Conditions

AU0205073691 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0300 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Around 4,000 miners in the (Hromu) mines in central Albania have been striking for 11 days, demanding better work and living conditions. Thanks to the RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE newspaper, the daily of the Democratic Party, which is the strongest opposition party in Albania, the official media's silence on the strike was broken today. The strikers are bitter because not one single government representative or legislative member from the ranks of the ruling Workers' Party has responded to their call.

Gramoz Pashko, leader of the Democratic Party, has announced that the strike is an economic one and that the trade unions will organize a wave of political strikes in the middle of May.

Zhelev's April 1876 Uprising Anniversary Address

AU0105193291 Sofia BTA in English 1859 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Panagyurishte, May 1 (BTA)—"The Bulgarian people now restore the authentic attributes of the republic: A real parliament with political opposition and unrestricted debate, multi-candidate elections with an open election campaign, a replaceable head of state elected either directly by the people or indirectly by parliament for a definite term of office, a government controlled both by parliament and the press and by freely expressed public opinion, and a real separation of the three powers," said the president of the Republic Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, addressing a national ceremony which was held this evening in Panagyurishte, central Bulgaria, to mark the 115th anniversary of the April 1876 uprising against the Ottoman domination. The president described the uprising as "one of the watershed events in Bulgaria's modern history, remembered as a symbol of the Bulgarian people's heroism, patriotism and will for freedom."

Dr. Zhelev said that, regrettably, the people's ideals of democracy and a republican form of government remained unfulfilled after Bulgaria's liberation from the Turkish yoke. "After the country was liberated by the Russian Empire—the mightiest monarchy at that time, and after the 1878 Congress of Berlin ruled that it should be a principality, the establishment of a republic was already impossible," he said.

Further on in his speech the president praised the Bulgarian people for adopting the Turnovo Constitution of 1879, one of the most liberal constitutions at that time, and for leading "majestic struggles for its preservation both in parliament and outside parliament," and for the sake of which it expelled two monarchs.

In his address Dr. Zhelev discussed the Bulgarian people's disappointment with the totalitarian communist regime which took over after the end of World War II, the defeat of fascism and the referendum which abolished the monarchy. Dr. Zhelev said that the totalitarian communist regime abused and compromised the republican form of government. Retaining all outside forms of republican government, it filled them with a new conflicting content. The result was a bizarre form of government which had never before existed in history: A republican monarchy or a monarchic republic, the president pointed out.

"It is from this monarchic republic which, to make it sound more convincing (or probably to be on the safe side) was called 'people's,' that the Bulgarian people is getting rid now," Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev emphasized.

BSP Refuses To Return State Funds

AU3004170891 Sofia BTA in English 1622 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 30 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) and the other successors of formal organizations in the totalitarian period refuse to return what they received from the state. Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, has recently made an official claim on the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) and the Fatherland Union requesting them to refund the respective amounts they received from the state in the form of subsidies in the last 40 years plus the interest accrued, but they refuse to do so. The Bulgarian Democratic Youth (BDY) which succeeded the Young Communist League insists on being given copies of the financial documents to be able to take a decision.

The amount of the claim laid on the four organizations is about four billion leva. If refunded, the money could be of great use to the 1991 national budget.

The BSP (the successor of the Bulgarian Communist Party) is the biggest debtor: It owes about three billion leva to the state but categorically refuses to pay the money back. Today the Socialists defined Mr. Kostov's claim as a "gross political campaign against the BSP" and as an "attempt to eliminate a political opponent" through "confiscation" and "nationalization." The Socialists argue that for the first time after November 10, 1989 the state structures are used—and over the government's head at that—for direct attacks on a party.

A special statement of the Presidium of the BSP Supreme Council made public today puts forward the following argument: There was a fusion between the state and the Communist Party in the last decades and the subsidies the latter received were in conformity with the legislation of that time, practically all political, trade union and religious organizations in Bulgaria were granted subsidies.

The BSP preserves its right to take a stand as to the amount of the subsidies indicated in Minister Kostov's report after considering the related documentation, it is said in the BSP statement. The Socialists insist on revising the Political Parties Act by eliminating the possibility for the Bulgarian political parties to receive aid from abroad.

The Fatherland Union which succeeded the Fatherland Front calls on Mr. Kostov to "withdraw his claim," today's "OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK" writes. The claim is called inaccurate, ungrounded and unproved.

Yesterday the leadership of the BZNS held a special meeting but was unable to take a decision on this "delicate issue" before getting acquainted with the evidence and the methodology used in the claim.

Call For Unity at May Day Events

AU0105185091 Sofia BTA in English 1720 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 1 (BTA)—The Prince Aleksandur of Battenberg Square in the center of Sofia is no longer a scene of the once traditional May Day parades. There is no more mass gymnastic displays and reports to top party and state chiefs of "remarkable achievements" in honor of the "militant day of labor" and the demonstration of "unity" behind the Bulgarian Communist (now Socialist) Party.

Members and supporters of the Podkrepa Labor Confederation flocked to the square today. They, along with all working people in Bulgaria, were greeted by representatives of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, of the French East Europe Democratization and of the AFL/CIO.

The Podkrepa leader Dr. Konstantin Trenchev said that the confederation will urge the government for the removal of those business executives—"the last trench of communism"—who stand in the way of the economic reform. The trade union amalgamation will demand an increase of social welfare funds. In Dr. Trenchev's view, the money should come from the more than 3,000 million leva which Finance Minister Ivan Kostov claims the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] and "its satellite organizations" should return to the state.

Dr. Trenchev emphasized that Podkrepa is a natural ally of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) and of the sound elements in the union.

The Podkrepa leader insisted on elections as soon as possible, stressing that he was confident of their results.

The participants in the rally were greeted by Mr. Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the SDS Coordinating Council. He said that the only correct way to go ahead with the reform was to hold new parliamentary elections.

The other labor amalgamation in Bulgaria, the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions, canceled its May Day celebrations because of the bad weather. It had invited workers to a picnic in a place near Sofia.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party organized a rally and procession mottoed "No to Chaos and Devastation." The party's leader Mr. Aleksandur Lilov said that the BSP struggles for social peace, for radical reforms, for justice and for every Bulgarians' right to work. "We fight for real democracy and for the right of the Bulgarian people to elect to parliament people whom they trust," he said.

On the stand he was flanked by the ex-President Mr. Petur Mladenov, the ex-Defense Minister General Dobri Dzhurov and the Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Aleksandur Tomov. They were enthusiastically greeted by the participants in the rally who chanted "Victory," "We back you" and "Hold the Army, General."

The procession peacefully marched along Sofia's thoroughfares.

May Day was also celebrated in a number of towns around the country without the once familiar banners, portraits and slogans.

Post-Chernobyl Radiation Control Plan Described

AU0105191391 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 26 Apr 91 p 2

[Meglena Ilieva report]

[Text] A system of constant radiation and chemical and biological control was established in Bulgaria after the Chernobyl accident, Lieutenant General Mikhail Yovchev, head of Civil Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria and deputy minister of defense, said. Laboratories for gamma-spectrometric analysis have been established in the major cities, and they conduct permanent control. At present, every radiation emission is immediately noted by those systems, the General added.

He said that a plan has been prepared on action in case of an accident at the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant. Much has been done to inform the population within a zone of 30 km. around the nuclear plant. The population in the region has fully been provided with antiradiation cites and masks. More than 104,000 gasmasks have been distributed. Unfortunately, the situation in other parts of the country is different, Gen. Yovchev said. Some 1.5 million gasmasks are needed. For the time being respirators are used instead of gasmasks.

This does not mean that no protection means exist, Yovchev said. The Army has its own antiradiation means, which will be used if necessary.

The General said that during the Gulf crisis, the Civil Defense did not sell even one gasmask to foreign armies, except the quantity transferred to the Bulgarian diplomats in the Gulf region.

Gen. Yovchev expressed concern with the antiradiation shelters situation. Some 30 percent of the 68,000 such shelters in the country are not ready for use.

It was announced that currently one third of the population is provided with calcium iodine for cases of radiation. Minimum funds are necessary for purchasing the necessary two-threee tonnes of this substance, which will guarantee the population's total iodine protection.

Dienstbier Stresses Good Relations With USSR

LD0105173491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] CSFR Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier has stated that we are interested in very good relations with the Soviet Union. In an interview for TASS, he noted the great importance of the agreement on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from our territory, which removes the main obstacles from gradual development of bilateral relations.

Jiri Dienstbier also pointed to the difficulties in economic relations where, according to him, a dangerous trend to restrict mutual trade is emerging. He added, however, that the possibilities of each side must be considered. Regarding the outstanding contentious point concerning the interstate treaty on friendship and cooperation, in which Moscow is demanding that an obligation be undertaken to insure that no party will enter into an alliance directed against the other, Dienstbier stressed that Czechoslovakia does not intend to pursue a policy hostile to the Soviet Union.

'Special Technology' Agreement With USSR

AU0105191891 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 26 Apr 91 pp 1,2

["(ru)"-signed report: "In No Way Will There Be a Review of Reform]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The government recommended at its session yesterday that a new principle be created to ensure spare parts and supplementary materials for military purposes. In connection with this, it expressed its agreement with the proposal to conclude a treaty between the CSFR and USSR Governments on mutual supplies of special technology in 1991. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Gives Economic Affairs Briefing

AU0105174691

[Editorial Report] Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY, Prague RUDE PRAVO, and Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 25 April and Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 27 April publish 200- to 300-word CTK and correspondents' reports on a press briefing held at the Ministry of Defense in Prague on 24 April.

Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech on 25 April on page 3 carries a 200-word CTK report on the news conference entitled "The Army Will Engage in Entrepreneurial Activity." According to the report, Ivan Balaz was introduced at the briefing as "new deputy minister of defense for economic management." He told journalists that the ministry would soon present to the public a "concept for alleviating the consequences of conversion, especially in Slovakia." He also said that "Iran, Algeria, and some Latin American countries are interested in [purchasing] Czechoslovak weapons" but that "the CSFR will on no account export weapons to possible hotbeds of future conflicts." Balaz also spoke about the need for the Czechoslovak Army's special facilities—the Military Engineering Works with their 12,000 employees and the Czechoslovak Army Repair Works with their 28,000 employees—to become involved in "entrepreneurial activity" in the civilian sector to generate funds for the Army.

Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech on 25 April on page 2 carries a 200-word "ks"-signed report on the above news conference. It mentions that in the first three months of 1991 the Army spent only 6.3 billion of its 7 billion korunas budget for the first quarter of the year. Expenditures on personnel account for 30 percent and expenditures on investments and repairs for 70 percent of Army spending.

Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 25 April on page 3 carries a 300-word "val"-signed report on the Ministry of Defense briefing. According to the RUDE PRAVO report, Deputy Minister Balaz told journalists that the Czechoslovak Army will not be able to carry out the planned redeployment of Czechoslovak Army troops unless it gets about 3 billion korunas, which the redeployment is expected to cost and "which the Army does not have."

Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 27 April on page 2 carries a 250-word "bau"-signed report entitled "Tanks to Iran?" The report deals with the newspaper's inquiry concerning Balaz's statement at his 24 April news conference that Iran would like to purchase some older types of Czechoslovak tanks. According to the report, "we have learned from well-informed sources that the tanks in question are T-54 tanks, the contracts for which had been concluded prior to the Paris treaty on reducing conventional forces [of November 1990] and which have not been delivered because of the crisis in the Persian Gulf." The report adds that these tanks are currently in army depots and that they will have to be scrapped if they cannot be sold. This also explains their "very low price, which makes these tanks interesting for Iran." The report mentions that, apart from excess tanks, the Czechoslovak Army avails itself also of other excess material. It is a "public secret," the report says, that the Czechoslovak assistance for Kurdish refugees comes precisely from these excess inventories.

Charges Leveled Against Deputy Interior Minister

AU0105171191

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 25 April on pages 1 and 2 carries a 400-word interview with Jiri Sprusil, commander of the Public Security Corps Administration in North Moravia, by a "pka"-signed MLADA FRONTA DNES correspondent, entitled "Sprusil: I Have Evidence." The interview, the place of which is not given, was conducted on 24 April.

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 26 April on pages 1 and 2 carries a 600-word Rostislav Rod article entitled "The Interpellation Is Waiting." The article reviews reactions to claims made by Jiri Sprusil in the Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES interview.

In his interview, Jiri Sprusil claims that he avails himself of evidence that "current Deputy Federal Minister of Interior Arnost Kohut is a criminally defective person" [kriminalne zavadova osoba]. He found this out, Sprusil says, while "investigating the justification" of Federal Assembly Deputy Richard Sacher's interpellation in the legislature, which concerned the moral and professional qualifications of leading Interior Ministry staff. Sprusil wonders how the Federal Government could approve Arnost Kohut's appointment, since the existence of his "criminal record" must have been known at the time of his appointment. Sprusil does not specify the nature of Kohut's past criminal offenses, he merely notes that there exists evidence for them "at the appropriate police stations, courts, and prosecutor's offices."

Asked about his motives for the above revelation, Sprusil denies that he has any career ambitions himself. His only motive, he says, is his conviction that only by getting rid of people without the requisite moral qualities can the security forces regain people's trust.

In the 26 April MLADA FRONTA DNES article, Rostislav Rod confronts Jan Ruml, first deputy federal minister of interior, and Deputy Jan Fricar, member of the legislative commission investigating the justification of Deputy Sacher's interpellation, with Sprusil's assertions.

Ruml says that Sprusil "did not receive from the legislative commission any special authorization to check information about Arnost Kohut" and that he, Ruml, will therefore ask Czech Interior Minister Sokol to initiate disciplinary proceedings against the police commander.

Fricar confirms that Sprusil was not commissioned to screen Deputy Interior Minister Kohut. Quite to the contrary, Sprusil had presented the Kohut file to the legislative commission "on his own initiative."

Asked about his commission's other findings concerning the justification of Deputy Sacher's interpellation, Fricar says that, as far as the commission was able to ascertain, none of Interior Minister Langos' deputies "has ever been treated for drug abuse or has had an alcohol problem." First Deputy Interior Minister Jan Ruml and Deputy Interior Minister Petruska Sustrova, however, "have both admitted to have undergone psychiatric treatment. Mrs. Sustrova spent about four days in a psychiatric clinic after collapsing prior to her wedding. Mr. Ruml was treated for about three weeks after being barred from taking the secondary school graduation exam, which he finally passed with flying colors." Fricar says that the commission has not yet completed its work. There is still "some lack of clarity" about "the Interior Ministry's foreign expert Mr. Pallas," and the commission therefore intends to question Interior Minister Langos on him.

Confidential Information Passed to Press

AU0105224891 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 27 Apr 91 p 2

["nel"-signed report: "To Help the Needy"]

[Excerpt] Prague—[passage omitted] At the outset of yesterday's meeting of the Defense and Security Committees, CSFR Minister of the Interior Jan Langos read a letter from his Deputy Ministers Ruml and Sustrova addressed to the members of the Defense and Security Committees. Both object that the private information they supplied to the commission investigating the veracity of the interpellation by Deputy Sacher has been passed onto the press. Based on a disclosure by a member of the commission, Jan Fricar, the daily MLADA FRONTA DNES published these facts. Some of the information is characterized as medical confidentiality. [passage omitted]

May Day Rallies Criticize Government

LD0105175291 Prague CTK in English 1639 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Prague May 1 (CTK)—Left-wing parties criticising the course of radical economic reform and other parties holding festivals—this was May Day in Czechoslovakia this year, a day always marked by official rallies under the former communist regime.

Some 60,000-70,000 turned up for a meeting held on the outskirts of Prague by the Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia, a surprisingly high number for a party which was deprived of exclusive power in the state in November 1989 after more than 40 years.

Party Chairman Jiri Svoboda, a film director who was present at the founding of the Civic Forum in November 1989, criticised the government policy of privatising state property. "Instead of being protected, the national property created by generations is being sold out cheap and rashly," he said. He also criticised what he called a "false coquetry" on the part of the Czechoslovak government with NATO.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel was the first politician from the former Soviet Bloc states to visit the NATO headquarters in Brussels in March 1991.

In the regional Moravian capital of Brno, some 3,000 people attended a communist meeting and heard party leaders condemn negative social impact of the economic reform. In Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, the smaller of Czechoslovakia's two republics, the Democratic Left Party (SDL) attracted only some 600 people to its meeting. The SDL is the former Communist Party of Slovakia.

In the North Moravian town of Olomouc thousands came to the main square when news spread that university students elected Miroslav Sladek "king of Majles," the traditional student May Day festival. Sladek, the leader of the Association for the Republic, is a right-wing critic of the government. When the crowds found out that this was a students' joke, most left to see an exhibition of three designs for men's and women's municipal police uniforms.

The Civic Democratic Alliance (ODA), a minor Czech right-wing party which separated from the once united Civic Forum, sponsored a student May Day festival on the Petrin Hill in Prague to commemorate a similar student event in 1967 which was brutally dispersed by the communist police.

Banners raised above the heads of some 200 people read "Mr Dubcek, we want no third road," criticising the communist party leader during the 1968 Prague Spring reform movement and current chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament). The ODA wants to recall Dubcek from his present post because of his political orientation. Dubcek is currently visiting New Zealand.

Parties, Movements Agree on Federative Setup

AU0105191691 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 26 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] Representatives from 12 CSFR political parties and movements agreed at a roundtable held in Brno yesterday that the optimum constitutional and legal arrangement is a state composed of three equal entities. The signatories to this agreement are representatives from the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party; the Czechoslovak People's Party; the Movement for Czechoslovak Understanding; the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia; the Liberal Congress; the Moravian National Party; the Freedom Party; the Green Party; the Free Farmers' Party; the Coexistence-Egyutteles movement; and the Agrarian Party.

Amendments to List of Price-Controlled Goods

AU0105113891 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 25 Apr p 9

[CTK report: "Regulation of Prices of Fuels and Heat"]

[Text] In its resolution No. 188 of 28 March 1991, the CSFR Government abolished, with effect from 1 May 1991, subsidies from the federal budget on prices of solid and gaseous fuels as well as subsidies on the prices of heat supplied to the public for final consumption. The only subsidy extended from the state budget until the end of the year will be a subsidy extended to heat suppliers who supply heat from heat sources that burn gaseous and liquid fuels and whose output exceeds six megawatts. This subsidy will offset the difference between the price of heat supplied to the public calculated on the basis of the heat generators' expenditures on solid fuels and these suppliers' actual production costs. Another subsidy from the state budget of the federation will be extended to local authorities so they can deal with urgent social cases.

In connection with the abolition of subsidies on the prices of fuels and heat supplied to households, the Federal, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic Ministries of Finance have also carried out corresponding adjustments to the regulation of prices. In their decree No. 06/1991, which goes into effect on 1 May 1991, the Federal, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic Ministries of Finance increase the maximum prices of coal, briquettes, coke, gas, and heating oil and project these increases into the prices of heat supplied to the public.

The aforementioned decree also raises the maximum prices of raw timber from coniferous and deciduous trees. However, this increase only applies to sales by forestry and wood-processing enterprises and entrepreneurs based in the Czech Republic (the regulation of the prices of raw timber in the Slovak Republic had been abolished as of 15 April 1991, by means of decree No. 05/1991 of the Federal, Czech Republic, and Slovak Republic Ministries of Finance). In conjunction with the raised maximum prices of raw timber in the Czech Republic and the abolition of the regulation of raw timber prices in the Slovak Republic, the decree introduces for the first time the regulation of prices of designated types of paper (including newsprint) in the form of short- and long-term regulations [vecne a casove usmernovani]. This form of price regulation allows paper manufacturers and dealers to project into their prices only economically warranted costs of raw material procurement and processing, the cost of distribution, plus a commensurate profit.

The development of the prices of some food items has gradually become stabilized, with the prices of most food products having even recorded a slight decrease. The current market prices of some food products are lower than the set maximum prices. This situation makes it possible to ease the regulation of food prices somewhat and to abolish the maximum prices for poultry and boneless haunch of pork.

[Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech on 25 April on page 1 carries a 500-word Vladimir Cechlovsky report on the impact of the abolition of subsidies on fuel and heat prices. According to the report, households consuming fewer than 900 cubic meters of natural gas a year will be paying 2.80 korunas [Kcs] per cubic meter as of 1 May, instead of Kcs1.20. Households consuming more that 900 cubic meters of natural gas a year will be paying a flat monthly fee of Kcs88, plus Kcs1.65 for every cubic meter, instead of Kcs0.70. If they consume more than 6,000 cubic meters of natural gas a year, however, they will have to pay Kcs3.35 for every cubic meters consumed above this limit. Small consumers of city gas

(below 1,500 cubic meters a year) will be paying Kcs1.25 per cubic meter. Large consumers of city gas (above 1,500 cubic meters a year) will be paying a flat monthly fee of Kcs61.50, plus Kcs0.75 for every cubic meter, instead of Kcs0.45. If their consumption exceeds 10,000 cubic meters per year, they will have to pay Kcs1.85 for every cubic meter exceeding this limit. Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 26 April on page 2 carries a 400-word interview with Engineer Jan Kurka, deputy director of the "Fuels" state enterprise in Bratislava. Asked about the impact of the decree by the three Ministries of Finance on the prices of solid fuels, Kurka says that, as of 1 May, the price of briquettes will go up to Kcs837.30 per tonne, the price of bituminous coal to Kcs1,366 per tonne; the price of coke to between Kcs1,785 and Kcs2,250 per tonne, depending on the supplier and quality; and the price of brown coal to between Kcs583 and Kcs1,334.90 per tonne, depending on supplier and quality.]

Klaus on Party Politics, National Economy

AU0105181191 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 26 Apr 91 pp 1,11

[Interview with Vaclav Klaus, CSFR finance minister and chairman of the Civic Democratic Party, by Jaroslav Veis and Karel Kriz; place and date not given: "We Will Reduce Sales Tax"]

[Text] [LIDOVE NOVINY] During the first quarter, the state budget surplus amounted to 13 billion....

[Klaus] You are right. Therefore, we are indeed considering tax reductions. An intervention in income tax is unrealistic; however, we will intervene in indirect taxes.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What will this mean for the people.

[Klaus] It should encourage demand, because prices will fall.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Mr. Chairman, according to recent public opinion polls, your party currently enjoys support from 19 percent of voters. At the moment, this is more than any other party or movement in the Czech Republic.

[Klaus] I would not overestimate the results of public opinion polls. At the moment, respondents have a choice of 30 or 40 political groupings. However, when the elections are called, the political spectrum will narrow down to a far smaller number of parties. Nevertheless, I feel good about the changes that have taken place at district and local levels and about what happened at the Civic Democratic Party's [ODS] constituent congress; that is, the party is capable of being more decisive and more emphatic than the Civic Forum was.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Now that it has formally constituted itself, does your party intend to demand any significant changes in the governments and legislatures?

[Klaus] Look, we all know we are living in a peculiar situation. The elections took place under specific conditions and then the electoral groupings split. However, no one is capable of organizing an orderly earthquake. This is what we have said many times, and I think it is necessary to constantly repeat it. On the other hand, should there be certain shifts or changes concerning individual ministers in the governments—especially in the Czech Government—we feel we should be involved. Nevertheless, this does not mean that tomorrow we will call for essential talks on this issue. We will take it as it comes.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Of course, as far as we know, a proposal has already been submitted by your party in the Federal Assembly to restructure the Presidium and some committees; for example, the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committee.

[Klaus] Our party is now shaping and looking for a modus vivendi between the parliamentary clubs and the party's executive council. The proposal you are talking about is only a proposal submitted by our parliamentary club, not by the ODS' Executive Republican Council. We will discuss this issue at the executive council's first session on 30 April. What you saw was really only a proposal presented by a group of deputies. It is not an ODS proposal as such. I would like to make this distinction, because we now have to be aware of a specific system for mutual responsibility involving deputies and the ODS. We also have to stabilize our apparatus. We have to begin to do this professionally.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] How large an apparatus do you want to have?

[Klaus] A small one.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Your party acknowledges conservative thinking. However, it does not have this word in its name. Moreover, a party with this name has been registered by Mr. Kotas. What does this mean for you?

[Klaus] Nothing other than an unfortunate coincidence. In any case, the constituent congress has not changed the party's name; this is not an issue that should cause a stir among us.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] At the constituent congress, however, you mentioned possible mergers and coalitions with other political parties as long as they are sensible ones. Could you be a little more specific about what the word sensible means?

[Klaus] I had in mind sensible mergers and sensible coalitions; I was not talking about sensible parties or movements. There is a very significant difference. We are talking about the democratic right wing, about parties of the non-Sladek type; that is the first thing. We are looking for contacts and we have them with some parties; however, it is too early to say with whom. In any case, we want to play the role of an integrative party. We do not aspire to—in the past laughable—concept of

leading role; that is nonsense. However, the right wing cannot afford to let itself become disunited.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Are you interested in a coalition prior to or after the elections?

[Klaus] I think both versions are possible. However, political life is so dynamic that it is superfluous to anticipate what will happen in six months time. I have to admit that I cannot do this.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] In Olomouc you, in essence, avoided defining your political partner in Slovakia.

[Klaus] We made our extremely positive attitude toward Jozef Kucerak very clear. Rank and file citizens gave him their support at a meeting in Ostrava a day before the congress. The speech delivered by Engineer Rybar, a representative of the New Right-Wing movement, created a very positive impression at our constituent congress. Otherwise, we are—of course—open to the new situation in Slovakia and to the Christian Democratic Movement's new position. We are waiting to see what will happen with the Public Against Violence movement. I think it would be rather irresponsible to express any kind of judgment on the situation now. Prior to their "separation" assembly, I do not feel that I know whether the person I am negotiating with represents five or 75 percent....

[LIDOVE NOVINY] According to the newspapers, at the congress you also mentioned the covert and pragmatic sabotage of economic reform. Did you have in mind sabotage at the enterprise or government level?

[Klaus] I meant at both of these levels. We come across this every day at the top and at the bottom. However, I think that in our country this attack on reform is a little simplified. It is simplified in the sense that behind it—to a certain extent—we see only specific groups of Slovak economists and politicians. The attack being made by some Czech political representatives is no less serious. This attack is covert, it is not so prominent, and does not have the character of open disruption.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Could you be more specific and tell us who you mean?

[Klaus] No. Do not ask me to tell you who I mean. I see this in a number of departments, for example, in the Czech Government. In Friday's [26 April] edition of OBCANSKY DENIK, I will express an absolutely different point of view on this issue; therefore, this column is called "Will We Privatize the Enterprises or Rescue Them?"

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Is this in reaction to Tomas Jezek?

[Klaus] No, it is not. In the article I say that there have been indications recently that the enterprises are beginning to act less circumspectly than at any other time and are beginning to passively wait for help from above. I mean either from the state or from some foreign partner. The enterprises are beginning to get into debt to an extent they would not normally dare to, even under our previous regime. They have simply read—and someone supports them in this opinion—that normally, when a country privatizes two or three enterprises per annum, the state mostly writes off their debts prior to each privatization and, thanks to this, the enterprises then attain a higher value on the investment capital market and are sold for a higher price. This is an absolute mistake. This is a mistake for Czechoslovakia, which does not carry out three privatizations per annum but has to carry out hundreds or thousands of them, which does not have a developed financial and capital market where it would be possible to carry out all these privatization transactions easily, and which does not have time. It does not have the strength to make sure that these restructuring processes are carried out. These are perestroyka or restructuring types of strength that still need central planning, although under a slightly different name and under a slightly different heading; nothing else is involved.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] During the first quarter of this year, a 13 billion koruna surplus was achieved in the state budgets. Would it not be purposeful to let the reins go a little?

[Klaus] This restriction is not so terrible. If we look at 1990, we were unsuccessful in slowing down demand in this sector, or we did not introduce tighter measures. Unfortunately. However, if I take 1991—look—we really could not foresee all developments concerning the economic figures. This means making a precise estimate of what the state budget surplus will be under such and such circumstances. I think this surplus of 13 billion is a genial spot of luck. That is, today we can consider giving a certain taxation stimulus. What can we do? We can either increase expenditure or reduce taxes in the state budget. Economists know that increasing expenditure usually has a very delayed result because, although you decided to initiate a system of public works, the effect will only come after many months. It is necessary to make a decision. Creating projects, setting them in motion, and employing people simply take a long time. Taxation measures have a much quicker effect. Therefore, we are indeed considering a taxation stimulus; we would like to introduce this in the very near future. I do not think we can intervene in income tax. Some enterprises have made large profits from price liberalization. It would not make much sense to reduce their tax burdens even further. Therefore, I think we will intervene in indirect taxes. As you know, the taxation rates today on sales taxes are 0 percent, 12 percent, 22 percent, and 32 percent. We have decided to reduce this by 2 percent in each category which is, in fact, a reduction from 22 percent to 20 percent, from 32 percent to 30 percent, and so on. This will involve an average reduction of approximately 10 percent, which is not a small reduction. This measure is targeted directly on the population because the population pays this tax in prices. That is, it should lead to a certain improvement in demand, because prices will fall.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] According to the foreign media, you caused a sensation at the constituent session of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London last week....

[Klaus] Yes. I made a speech there and, contrary to the other governors who came with words of greeting, I demanded that this institution be depoliticized and that an absolutely pragmatic approach be instilled in its operation. The second point I emphasized there was that the bank should consider whether to conduct strategic studies, regional branch analyses, and so on. I said that our experience with such a course of action is very cautionary. These institutions have—like all other institutions—a tendency to rise above the normal economic level. They have a tendency not to negotiate with individual enterprises, but with governments, and not to see the specific enterprises and projects, but the branches and regions.... We have had our own experience with this.

Tkac, Spacek Interviewed on Taxation Disagreements

AU0105145091

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 25 April on page 13 carries an 800-word transcript of an interview with Engineer Marian Tkac, Slovak deputy minister of finance, which was broadcast on Slovak Radio. The place and date of the interview and the time of the broadcast are not given. Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 26 April on page 2 carries a 600-word interview with Czech Minister of Finance Karel Spacek by MLADA FRONTA DNES correspondent Ivana Vajnerova. The place and date of the interview are not given. Both interviews deal with differences between the Federal, Czech, and Slovak Governments on taxation issues.

Asked by Slovak Radio whether the last, 22 April session of the CSFR Financial Council helped to bridge the differences between the federal, Czech, and Slovak sides over taxation, Tkac replies that the existing disagreements have not been overcome: "The basic problem is who should pass laws on the income and corporate taxes, whether they should be passed by the Federal Assembly as well as by the two national councils, or, rather, to which extent they should be passed by the Federal Assembly and the national councils. We have not come to an agreement on whether the laws on consumer taxes should be republican laws or whether there should be a single federal law. This means, in specific terms, that, in the event of a federal law on consumer taxes, there would have to be the same taxation of liquor, wine, and gasoline, for example, in the entire federation. If consumer taxes were not subject to a federal law, it could happen that the consumer tax on gasoline in Slovakia might be lower than in the Czech Republic and, consequently, the prices of gasoline would be different."

Another point of disagreement, according to Tkac, was where to collect individual taxes, particularly the tax on gasoline: "Our federal and Czech colleagues want all consumer taxes, with the exception of the gasoline tax, to be collected from the manufacturer. This is in accord with the trend throughout the world and the EC, and it is practical because it prevents tax evasion." Regarding the gasoline tax, however, the "Czech and federal colleagues want the tax to be collected from the consumer." Tkac stresses that this is a "very serious problem" because the tax on gasoline, which is manufactured in the Slovnaft refinery in Bratislava, yields about 10 billion korunas a year.

The last area of disagreement was whether the republics should have the right to reduce federally set income and corporate tax rates. Tkac says: "We believe that the republic should have the right to lower tax rates so the corporate tax in Slovakia, for example, could be lower than in the Czech Republic and lower than that set in the federal law." Tkac dismisses the objection that, in this case, Slovakia would contribute less to the federal budget than the Czech Republic. He says that there are two ways to ensure a fair taxation burden: "One is to fix a set percentage for the federal state budget payable by every tax payer. This could be, let us say, 4 to 5 percent, with the republics availing themselves of the rest as they deem appropriate. Another possibility would be for the republics to contribute fixed sums for the federal state administration that would be determined in advance."

In his interview for Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES, Czech Minister of Finance Spacek first responds to a question about the Czech budget situation. Asked whether it is true that the Czech Republic's budget for the first quarter of the year ended with a deficit, while Slovakia has a budget surplus, Spacek replies that the "large Slovak budget surplus for the first quarter is only an illusion." As he explains, the different development in the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic is connected with the different system of allocating finances to the communities used in the two republics, with the fact that payments to the communities in Slovakia are effected on a delayed basis. Spacek is therefore convinced that the Slovak budget surplus is "only relative."

In the MLADA FRONTA DNES interview, Spacek also calls for an "objective and just" distribution of tax proceeds. He says: "We will seek an objective and just distribution of proceeds of the sales and profit taxes next year, that is, 40 percent for the Czech Republic, 35 percent for the federation, and 20 percent for Slovakia. This year Slovakia was granted 25 percent of these proceeds, as a result of the exacerbated situation over the 'gasoline affair.' This was essentially a concession made to save the federation." Spacek points out that next year the Czech Republic will need additional resources to meet Moravian demands and believes that these resources should come "from the 5 percent that Slovakia gained this year." The minister concedes that this demand "could provoke another crisis of the federation."

In the interview, Spacek describes as "absurd" the "claim of Slovak nationalists and parts of the Slovak press that the 35 percent earmarked for the federation are obtained by 'Pragocentrists' and, hence, the Czechs." He stresses that the Czech Republic contributes more than twice as much to the "common coffers" than Slovakia does and that this fact should be "taken into account" in meeting the needs of individual Czech regions.

Legal Complaint Filed Against Meciar

AU0205090691 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 27 Apr 91 p 2

[Text] The National Liberal Party Presidium lodged a legal complaint at the Prosecutor's Office in Bratislava I municipal district against Vladimir Meciar for the following reasons: In an article published in NARODNA OBRODA, Vladimir Meciar slandered the German ethnic minority; he transgressed the powers granted to him as a public official; and by his statements he incited the population to anticonstitutional activities.

Press Roundup on Aftermath of Slovak Crisis

LD0205085191 Prague CTK in English 0649 GMT 2 May 91

[Press review]

[Excerpts] Prague May 2 (CTK)—"Early elections are the slogan of those feeling that their power is rather in words than deeds", Czech Premier Petr Pithart said in today's independent "MLADA FRONTA DNES". He reacted indirectly to calls which can be heard above all from Slovakia these days (e.g. dismissed Premier Vladimir Meciar).

"The task of all responsible people is not to believe the populist slogans. Otherwise the economic reform might be delayed by years rather than months", Pithart said.

The independent "LIDOVE NOVINY" says the good reputation of the Slovak nation in Europe had been saved by a group of courageous deputies, much more far-sighted than some 90 per cent of their voters, manipulated by the mass media. In the last minute an anti-totalitarian coalition was created which saved Slovakia from legal and economic anarchy and international isolation. The fact that the majority of the Slovaks are not yet aware of this is a paradox, the daily says. [passage omitted]

Bratislava—Referring to calls by some forces in Czechoslovakia for Alexander Dubcek to be replaced in his post of Federal Assembly (parliament) chairman by a person "not compromised by a communist past", the Slovak independent daily "NARODNA OBRODA" said on Monday [as received] that the campaign against Dubcek has been strengthening in particular because of his support for Vladimir Meciar, the recently ousted slovak premier. Some Prague politicians failed to notice that the world views Alexander Dubcek as a man who paved the way for what eventually became the democratisation of Eastern Europe, "NARODNA OBRODA" said, adding that the questioning of the federal parliament chairman's authority exposes the parliament itself to the risk of doubts.

The Christian Democratic Movement paper "SLOVENSKY DENNIK" notes that until recently Slovak Government coalition partners could afford to engage in disputes reminiscent of the election campaign. "However, now when the communist coalition in parliament (Slovak National Party, Democratic Left Party, For Democratic Slovakia group) seems to be a force capable of restoring an evil empire in Slovakia, the personal ambitions and party interests of representatives of the democratic coalition should go aside," the paper said, and added that both the Public Against Violence and the Christian Democratic Movement have a chance to survive only if they are able to follow up the atmosphere of mutual understanding, in which both were born.

Reacting to the much discussed Slovak "separatism and nationalism" in an interview carried by the leftist daily PRAVDA, Director of the Prague-based Institute for External Economic Relations Ivan Angelis said he does not think that "Slovakia's image in the world would be such an important factor of increasing uncertainty in (foreign) capital entering Czechoslovakia. It would, naturally, be better if such opinions were not heard from our country. A possible change of Czechoslovakia's state setup dividing the state into two countries would be a fundamental economic intervention from which we would be recovering and building a new starting position for many years."

Deputies Express Concern Over Slovak Events

LD0105210491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1930 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The political board and the interparliamentary club of the Slovak National Council and Federal Assembly deputies of the Public Against Violence For Democratic Slovakia movement published today a viewpoint on the current extremely tense political situation in Slovakia. They voiced their apprehensions and recalled the fact that the Presidium of the Slovak National Council did not accept hundreds of thousands of votes in favor of preserving the Slovak Government under the leadership of Vladimir Meciar. In this connection, they noted that they have not and do not initiate strikes in Slovakia. The political board and the interparliamentary club of the deputies stressed that renewal of trust between citizens and the supreme national bodies is a necessary prerequisite for consistent fulfillment of tasks connected with forming the constitution and the economic reform.

Carnogursky Meets With Trade Unionists

AU0205105391 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 27 Apr 91 p2

["si"-signed report: "Time Is Money"]

[Text] Bratislava—The slow progress in dealing with the problems of enterprises affected by the conversion of armament production was the subject of yesterday's talks between Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky and federal and republic ministries' representatives and directors of the affected companies and representatives of the KOVO enterprise trade union.

As early as last year, at a meeting dealing with these problems, the Federal Government made a decision on continuing the armament production in some regions. The systemic solution includes, among other things, a Slovak Government resolution of 8 January of this year. The failure to keep deadlines and to comply with instructions led the KOVO enterprise trade-union representatives to a meeting at which they wanted to hear specific tasks and deadlines for approving projects and development programs for individual companies. Based on the conclusions of this meeting, the companies are to submit feasible and satisfactory development programs to the Slovak Ministry of the Economy by 15 May, and upon recommendation the Federal Government will approve or rather accept them until 31 July at the latest. As Federal Economy Minister Vladimir Dlouhy told those present, in its next session, the Federal Government will also discuss documentation on a special technology fund. It will assign the CSFR minister of defense the task of clearly specifying by the end of June the conditions for marketing it. Moreover, he proposes to the Federal Government that it segregate the amount of 2 billion korunas from the fund assigned to the structural changes, with 1.5 billion of this amount to be used to cover the development programs.

Only in the event that the banks are not able to provide the enterprises with full coverage could the enterprises apply for a state subsidy. If the enterprises, ministries, and the Federal Government followed the accepted deadlines, by August the social tension in Slovak as well as in Czech enterprises affected by the conversion would be relieved. That should enable the employees of these enterprises to begin manufacturing products capable of competition again, so they do not have to temporarily deal with the situation by introducing programs that do not correspond to their technical equipment, as for instance General Engineering Works Dubnica, which introduced snail farming.

Slovak Cooperative Unions Meet, Elect Chairman

AU0105190891

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 26 April on page 2 carries a 50-word "dab"-signed report on the "general assembly" of member organizations of the Slovak Union of Production Cooperatives (SZVD) held in Bratislava on 25 April. According to the report, the assembly approved "new SZVD statutes and leading bodies. Engineer Marian Rybar again became SZVD chairman." On the same page, Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA carries a 50-word CTK report on the "first conference of member cooperatives of the Slovak Union of Consumer Cooperatives (SZSD)" held in Bratislava on 25 April. The conference of the 400,000-member organization elected S. Adamca as new SZSD chairman.

Moravians, Silesians Urge Tripartite Federation

AU0105170091 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 25 Apr 91 p 5

["(zr)"-signed report: "Moravia Has Marched Through Prague"]

[Text] Around 5,000 Moravians and Silesians came to Prague on 24 April. They assembled in the Old Town Square with their banners. The dominant slogan on these was "Our policy is a union [spolkovy] republic."

They appealed to Czech National Council [CNR] deputies to support the renewal of a land arrangement and urged them to provide the Federal Assembly with a stimulus for adopting a constitution whose basis would be a tripartite federation. A delegation—which declared that it represents three million Moravians and Silesians—visited CNR Chairwoman D. Buresova with gifts of bread, wine, and flowers.

Then the demonstration set off across Charles Bridge and the Old Town Square toward the pedestrian zone and halted on Mustek. Here Federal Assembly Deputy B. Barta, chairman of the Movement for Self-Governing Democracy-Society for Moravia and Silesia [HSD-SMS], said, among other things: "We are in favor of autonomous lands existing beside each other in mutual harmony and of the capital city of Prague also having a land statute. We do not think that the constitution should have to be declared on 28 October 1991, but that it should be prepared properly."

V. Tomis, an HSD-SMS deputy in the Federal Assembly, rejected the proposal presented by the former Civic Forum for a regional arrangement in the Czech Republic. He presented an argument favoring a union legislature with one chamber in which there would be 210 deputies instead of the current 300. He said that annual savings would amount to 36 million korunas.

A delegation headed by B. Barta laid a wreath on the statue of St. Wenceslas. Then Moravian music—played by ensembles from Wallachia, South Moravia, and other regions—resounded all over Mustek.

CNR Law on Property Transfer Outlined

AU0105170591 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 25 Apr 91 pp 1,2

[Petr Vana report: "State-Owned Apartments Will Become Community Property"]

[Text] Prague—In accordance with a Czech National Council [CNR] law approved on 24 April, roughly 25 percent of property in the Czech Republic—worth approximately 600 billion korunas—will become community property. Thus, an important economic basis has been established for communities' real autonomy.

Most of the fundamental arguments in the CNR centered around three issues: within what kind of limits should land be returned, whether small businesses should be given to communities, and whether residential buildings should be given over to them. I asked A. Hrazdira (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia), chairman of the Committee for Territorial Administration and Ethnic Minorities, how the finally approved law will resolve these issues.

He said that all land and buildings that communities owned before 31 December 1949—regardless of which community territory they lie in—will be returned to them. This is a change to the government proposal that only took community territory into consideration. Communities will also be given property managed by the national committees before the local elections (November 1990).

The proposal that small businesses should also be given over to the communities was not passed; they will now be privatized. Of course, in this instance, the communities have the alternative—according to Paragraph 6—of immediately requesting the district authority to designate small businesses and other property—pertaining to budget-funded and subsidized organizations—as community property. The district authority and the Finance Ministry in Prague will request an opinion from the privatization ministry on this issue. Communities can do the same thing concerning property managed by state enterprises (where the community or district authorities are the founders), but only after a year. There is a possibility, then, that a small business or a technical services plant could be community property on the day the law is promulgated.

According to the government's original idea, residential buildings should not have become community property, but—on the basis of demands from the communities—this was included in the government's draft. Many deputies also raised objections; however, the majority of them approved the transfer of entire residential buildings to communities. The communities will also have many problems with them, but this fund represents more than half of all community property. The communities can manage these properties in accordance with the valid regulations. That is, the apartments can be sold into private ownership and the proceeds will fall to the community.

Klaus' Party Establishes Club in Czech Council

AU0105200891 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 26 Apr 91 p 2

["(pv)"-signed report in the "By Telex, Mail, and Telephone" column]

[Text] An independent Civic Democratic Party Deputies' Club has been established in the Czech National Council. It has 36 members and is approximately the same size as the Civic Movement Deputies' Club and the Independent Deputies' Club, which evolved from the original Civic Forum Deputies' Club.

Deputies Dissociate Themselves From New Platform

AU0105201191 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 27 Apr 91 p 3

[Text] The Christian and Democratic Union Clubs of Deputies in the Federal Assembly and the Czech National Council proclaim that their members have not signed the so-called Christian Social Movement and they dissociate themselves from that platform.

Minister on Economic Competition Office Operation

AU0205090991

[Editorial Report] Prague CESKE A MORAVSKOSLEZSKE ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech on 27 April on page 2, under the headline "It Will Show a Firmer Hand," publishes a 400-word interview with Karel Dyba, Czech Republic minister for economic policy and development, by Drahoslav Zeman. The interview took place in Prague on 26 April. Zeman quotes Dyba as describing the advantages of the new Economic Competition Office as follows: "It can, for instance, step in and change the situation where enterprises enter into an agreement on a division of the market, or setting common prices advantageous to the enterprises but not to the consumer." Further, Dyba is quoted as having said: "The office is to complement the existing system of control bodies, and they should cooperate with one another." He then adds another description of the operation of the new body, "the office can evaluate information obtained on possible violations of the economic competition and cancel agreements between enterprises or impose fines."

Party Negotiators Agree on Coordination

LD0105134791 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Coordination should take place at two levels in the forthcoming six-party discussions, it was agreed yesterday by the participants in the consultations. At least this is what Sandor Olah, General Secretary of the Independent Smallholders, said in answer to my question. At the top level, the political committees should make the decisions, which, however, will be prepared in expert subcommittees. According to Sandor Olah, another important topic raised is that coordinating forum can make agreements binding on the parties, but not on the constitutional bodies, such as parliament or government. They also agreed that the trade union situation must be quickly resolved. Sandor Olah described it as a sad state of affairs that 1 May is being celebrated separately by the workers' interest representation bodies. He also said that when the parties meet to discuss this topic, the representatives of the interest representations will be able to take part in the consultation as observers.

Ivan Petoe was much less optimistic than this. We are no further along than we were before the six parties sat down together, he said. It is not even clear on what topics they should coordinate their positions because they did not have any concepts developed. The guarantees each sides can give are also undetermined. The fundamental question is still open, that is, who wants to achieve what objective with the coordinating forum, he said.

I talked to the two politicians before the start of the political forum organized by MAGYAR HIRLAP, where, apart from Sandor Olah and Ivan Petoe, Viktor Orban is also taking part. [passage omitted]

Trade Unions React to Six-Party Talks

LD0105185691 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 1 May 91

[Interview with Pal Forgach, chairman of the League of Independent Democratic Trade Unions, and Sandor Nagy, chairman of the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions [MSZOSZ] by Janos Hollos; in the City Park and People's Park respectively; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The result of the six-party talks that began yesterday is the mere fact that negotiations are taking place. This is how the view of the leading figures of the parties may be summarized. The National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions [MSZOSZ] and the League of Independent Democratic Trade Unions celebraded May Day separately this year—one in the City Park, the other in People's Park. Janos Hollos questioned a leading figure of each on the same subject:

[Hollos] Mr. Forgach, the only thing the six parties agreed on without reservation yesterday was that the situation of the unions had to be settled. [passage omitted]

[Forgach] I think that we are now making good an old omission. We are pleased that the six are now willing to submit draft bills to Parliament that ensure the freedom of association, which makes possible free trade union elections on the basis of equality. When the honest distribution of properties is solved, when the free trade union election is solved, there will be no obstruction whatsoever to harmonic cooperation between the trade union centers of different policy tendencies.

[Hollos] Sandor Nagy, chairman of the MSZOSZ.

[Nagy] The six parties agree on something that has little to do with them. If the six parties wish to sort out in Hungary the system of labor affairs relations and the needed tasks of the legal regulation of interest coordination, and if they agree on these then I will personally strongly support them. If, however, they try to intervene in the alleged dispute between trade unions or in the affairs which constitute the internal affairs of the trade unions—that I consider as being in conflict with the Hungarian Constitution and the spirit of the valid law on association. I cannot refrain from adding that among these six parties there is one which could do worse if it would sort out its own internal state to make it deserving of a parliamentary party...

[Hollos, interrupting] You have the Independent Smallholders Party in mind.

[Nagy] Yes. [passage omitted]

FIDESZ Satisfied With Six-Party Talks

LD0105211291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1900 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] The Federation of Young Democrats [FIDESZ] considers the first round of the six-party talks yesterday to have been successful.

Viktor Orban, faction leader, mentioned at the May Day celebration in the City Park that there had not been such discussion between the parties since the elections. He emphasized that the government must ask for the opinion of the parties about economic and constitutional questions that are decisive for the life of Hungary in the long-term.

Christian Democratic People's Party Head on Talks

LD0105224991 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 1 May 91

[Interview with Laszlo Varga, deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic People's Party, by Janos Hollos on 1 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Varga] The work of the parliament has to be quickened regarding economic questions because, compared with political life, the economic one is slow. Speedy and urgent measures are needed, especially in the fields of unemployment and inflation.

[Hollos] Your emphasis would thus be on an agreement among the parties in economic questions and not in political ones. What are these economic questions?

[Varga] Being a member of the Christian Democratic Party, I emphasize, most of all, social justice. [passage omitted]

[Hollos] How do you evaluate the first round of these talks?

[Varga] This six-party consultation will only be successful if the leaders of the parties manage to make their own parties understand that on this forum, party interests have to be put behind and only the interest of the nation should be considered. If the parties will achieve this, this consultation will not only be successful but it will also have a future, for we have a number of tasks ahead of us, not only from internal political, but also from foreign political points of view.

May Day Celebrants Hear Goncz Message

LD0105122291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 1 May 91

[Excerpt] Today, on the day of the festival of labor, the National Federation of Hungarian Trade Unions is celebrating in City Park, while the Democratic League of Independent Trade Unions is celebrating in People's Park. Gabor Kereszti reports from People's Park, where a statement by Arpad Goncz was heard.

[Kereszti] The first speaker at the workers' rally, before an audience of about 1,000 people, was Arpad Goncz, president of the Republic, the chief patron of the event. Naturally, his words were conveyed by tape recording, because the president is occupied abroad.

Arpad Goncz, first and foremost, called on the disintegrated trade union movement to join forces. As he put it, a strong democracy is inconceivable without strong trade unions. It is in society's vital interest that the trade unions join force. Settling their disputes must not be delayed. For this reason, the president of the Republic emphasized that he will use all his weight to see that a modern interest representation law is enacted as soon as possible, in accordance with European norms. [passage omitted]

May Day Call for Free Trade Unions

LD0105200591 Budapest MTI in English 1904 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 1 (MTI)—May 1 was celebrated by workers, rallies, political debating forums and cultural programmes in several towns and villages of Hungary.

Addressing a workers' rally in Budapest's Nepliget, Pal Forgacs, president of the League of Independent Trade Unions, called on workers to set up their free trade unions with leaders who have their confidence. The workers should not allow themselves to be deprived of their earlier achievements, he said.

Mr Imre Palkovics, president of the National Federation of Workers' Councils, stressed that workers were struggling for the future of democracy when speaking out in favour of independent employee's representations of their choosing.

Participants in the rally were greeted by Anna Oulatar, head of the East-Central European section of the International Association of Free Trade Unions. She said that as May 1 was now freely celebrated in Hungary, the holiday was beginning to regain its real meaning.

Kenneth Young, presidential advisor of the U.S. AFL-CIO, expressed the solidarity of American workers with their Hungarian associates. The rally was also addressed by the Hungarian-born Robert Gabor, official from AFL-CIO's international department, and Bernard Mourgues, foreign affairs secretary of the French C.G.T.- F.O..

Interior Minister on Police Force Problems

LD0105172491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 1 May 91

[Interview with Interior Minister Peter Bross by Agness Papp in the City Park at the May Day celebration on 1 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Boross] [Passage omitted] The program I set out for myself is to improve the safety of the streets. I heard with much pleasure from the director for the defense of public order—this is already a new post—that on this matter, spectacular improvements can very soon be expected.

I must add at once that from the complement of the Hungarian police some 8,000-10,000 staff are missing, compared to Western standards. This continues to be a problem. I hope that from 1992 we will have adequate budgetary means to make up for this shortcoming. Because the real issue is having enough policemen.

[Papp] Is it true that a voluntary police force will be activated?

[Boross] Yes, but this sentence creates a bag image. [passage omitted] We are not talking about the earlier voluntary police functions. What will solve the problem will be to publish rules concerning civil guards. [passage omitted] These civil guards are to take over the social

help function, they will have an organized presence, regularly visit sensitive areas, and be effective in every way.

Socialist Party Warns Against Compensation Law

LD0105091391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2200 GMT 30 Apr 91

[Text] According to the Hungarian Socialist Party, during the realization of the compensation law a situation resembling civil war could develop in some villages.

Socialist Party deputy (Jozsef Geczi) said this at an agricultural forum in Oroshaza. At the news conference following the consultation, Rezso Nyers particularly criticized the fact that parliament debated the question of compensation prior to that of all property reform. The Socialist Party deputy added that if they have already committed this mistake, at least one law should have been created on the basis of the original government proposal, which would not have violated legal cooperative property and it would have also given moral compensation to the workers. However, according to the socialists, the adopted law jeopardizes social peace and the agro-economic processes.

Leader of New Left-Wing Party Interviewed

AU0205095891 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 29 Apr 91 p 4

[Interview with Laszlo Udvarhelyi, chairman of the Left Wing Unity Movement, by L. Laszlo Janos; place and date not given: "Comprehensive National Program, From the Left—The Left Wing Unity Movement Has Been Formed"—first paragraph is MAGYAR HIRLAP introduction]

[Text] A new political organization has enriched Hungarian political life, which was already not exactly dull. The Left Wing Unity Movement [Baloldali Egyseg Mozgalom] [BEM] officially declared its formation on Thursday [25 April] night, and they elected as their chairman former Central Committee Secretary Laszlo Udvarhelyi, who had recently left the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party [MSZMP]. Our correspondent talked to him about the new movement's aims and prospects.

[Laszlo] What makes you think that the population, already distinctly disgusted with politics, will be interested in any kind of new movement?

[Udvarhelyi] I am convinced that people are not generally disappointed with politics, but they reject the current politics. During the last few weeks, since our intentions were made public, thousands of potential members have come forward. Among them are former MSZMP members, members of the Hungarian Socialist Party, non-party members, and even some people belonging to the Christian Democratic People's Party.

[Laszlo] Could you mention some typical points from your party program?

[Udvarhelyi] Today, we do not have any parties with a comprehensive national program. We consider this the most important point, therefore we based our movement on a specific program instead of an ideology of doctrines. We would like to represent mainly those who live on their salary. We do not think that our country could emerge from its crisis without the support of the majority of our population, and we will also have to give up our hopes for significant Western aid. We are convinced that Hungary will have to become a stabilizing factor in eastern central Europe, and will have to strive for neutrality beside maintaining maximum independence. We also approach the question of the debt crisis differently, because we think we should get government guarantees for our private loans after initiating debt renegotiations. We suggest that approximately 20 percent of shares should be given to the workers free of charge during the privatization of state-owned enterprises.

[Laszlo] You advertise the unity of the left in your name. Are you trying to encourage the existing left-wing parties to cooperate, or is it your aim to win over their membership?

[Udvarhelyi] In our view, the aforementioned parties have not been able to carry out a proper representation of the left. We welcome their members to join us basically we rely on the potentially left-wing masses who are currently without any party affiliation.

[Laszlo] Do you not think that many people will discredit this initiative, because disgraced former MSZMP members are trying to establish a new movement?

[Udvarhelyi] The average age of our newly elected leadership must be around 40 years and, therefore, a great deal of political ill-will is needed to identify these people with the former disgraced leadership. As for myself, I was an MSZMP member from 1969, and I have never held any paid party functions in my life. None of the leaders of our movement belong to the former apparatchiks.

Finance Minister Kupa Meets Eagleburger

LD0105200391 Budapest MTI in English 1823 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Washington, May 1 (MTI)—Mihaly Kupa, Hungarian minister of finance, held talks in an atmosphere of mutual understanding with Lawrence Eagleburger, first deputy secretary of state in charge of co-ordinating support for East-Central Europe, in Washington on Wednesday.

Speaking to MTI's correspondent, Kupa said that the U.S. foreign political circles were also aware of the

implications of the Soviet economic trends for the East-Central European states, and were considering ways of supporting the region, primarily through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The finance minister expressed his gratitude for the decision concerning the duty-free import of further Hungarian products, and asked for the extension of preferences to other important export commodities, such as wine and canned food.

Eagleburger pledged support, and indicated his intention to visit the region, including Hungary, this summer to obtain first-hand information as to possible ways and means of assistance and co-operation.

'Rapprochement' with Brussels on EC Status

LD0105200291 Budapest MTI in English 1852 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Brussels, May 1 (MTI)—The fourth round of the EC-Hungary talks on Hungary's associate status came to an end in Brussels. The joint final report clearly indicates a rapprochement between the positions of Brussels and Budapest.

After the talks had ended on Tuesday evening, Endre Juhasz, senior official from the Ministry of International Relations and head of the Hungarian delegation to Brussels, said, "In the possession of partial results and favourable promises, we are now at about halfway with the talks. Although the EC's amended proposals are already acceptable, we would like somewhat more, the fulfilment of which is in my view possible without our desires being detrimental to the community's interests."

Oil Imports in 1991 To Be Reduced

LD0105132191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1200 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Hungarian oil imports will be reduced this year. This can be explained partly by the decline in industrial production and partly by the transformation of the economic structure, the general director of Mineralimpex told MTI. Jozsef Toth said that we are expecting to buy 3 million tonnes of mineral oil from the Soviet Union.

An agreement has just been signed with Iran on the purchase of 1 million tonnes of oil. The discussions were fairly difficult because the Iranians wanted us to buy the raw material at a price higher than the world market price in exchange for expanding Hungarin exports.

Minister on Oil Purchase from Iran

LD0105180391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Hungary's oil exports have decreased somewhat this year, because industrial production has lapsed, and the economic structure is also under transformation. Our country has just signed an agreement on the purchase of oil from Iran. This is what Bela Kadar, minister for International Economic Relations, told Ildiko Karaki in Tehran

[Karaki] For the Hungarian economy undergoing transformation, it is important to expand trade sources, so that our energy supply does not depend too much on one or two suppliers. At the same time, the Iranian oil purchase makes the bilateral trade more balanced; last year the value of Hungarian sales exceeded purchases by nearly a hundred-fold.

Bela Kadar also said that Tehran indicated its wish to form joint enterprises. He would like to urge companies to do this; through the Hungarian-Iranian joint ventures, our country can also strengthen its economic presence in other countries of the region.

Foreign Minister on Treaty With Germany

AU0205102791 Warsaw PAP in English 1852 GMT 28 Apr 91

[Text] Warsaw, April 28—Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski who returned here today from a visit to the FRG said that the matter of the Polish-German treaty on good neighbourliness and partner-like cooperation was already closed.

"The text of the treaty has been agreed but it will not be published before it is accepted by both governments which should not arouse any doubts," he said.

Skubiszewski also said that the treaty required reasonable compromise on some points such as for instance the issue of the German minority in Poland. He stressed, however, that the divergencies on that issue were smaller than could be expected.

"The treaty covers every aspect of Polish-German cooperation. Both from our and the German point of view this is one of the grand treaties which is becoming a factor of our security through strong ties with neighbours and regulation of relations with them," Skubiszewski stated, adding that it did not mean an alliance. "Security is not limited to the military and political spheres exclusively, it is also the sphere of economic, ecological, cultural and social cooperation," he said.

Skubiszewski also assured that the treaty included provisions concerning the problems of Poles staying in Germany.

Making a reference to his talks with FRG's foreign minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Minister Skubiszewski stated that apart from questions connected with the treaty they also discussed issues relating to a meeting of foreign ministers from the CSCE countries to be held in Berlin in June, as well as relations with the USSR.

May Day Demonstrators Protest Against Government

LD0105202991 Warsaw PAP in English 1845 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 1—"Under our present conditions the May Day rally is a protest", OPZZ [National Trade Union Confederation] trade unions leader Alfred Miodowicz said before a procession organized here today by the OPZZ unions and the Social-Democracy of the Republic of Poland (formerly Communist PUWP).

Miodowicz appealed to President Lech Walesa for utilization of the vital and intellectual potential of Polish people saying that "if that reserve is not set into motion, the people will feel disappointed and may come out on the streets."

The rally participants signed a petition postulating "freedom, a true parliamentary democracy, and market economy," and protesting against "growing unemployment, low wages, and the crazy growth of prices of apartments and rents."

The demonstrators marched up to the theatre square where they applauded Wojciech Jaruzelski who joined them in the company of Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski.

The Polish Socialist Party PPS held a rally at the de Gaulle rondo (roundabout) here where it was joined by the Polish Feminist Association, the Socialist Solidarity, and other organizations. From there the demonstrators marched to the building of the Finance Ministry chanting "Balcerowicz must go," "End the rule of Liberals," "Free our wages," to show dissatisfaction with the government's economic policy.

May Day demonstrations in Katowice and Sosnowiec were organized by Social-Democrats, OPZZ local branches, the Working People's Movement, and the Union of Women.

In Poznan, members of the local Social-Democratic Union laid flowers at the plaque commemorating the workers killed there in 1920 and under the monument to the Poznan June of 1956, the first Polish revolt under communist rule.

Polish Socialist Party PPS and the anarchist federation held a joint rally in Gdansk, which was also attended by representatives of the free trade unions of the Baltic Coast, with veteran campaigner for worker rights Anna Walentynowicz. Leaders of the Gdansk Social-Democrats laid flowers at monument to the fallen dockers.

Rallies organized by the SDRP and the OPZZ were also organized in other towns. They were peaceful, except in Tarnow where members of the Fighting Youth Federation threw a smoke grenade into the crowd.

Citizens Satisfied With Bielecki Government

AU0105114591 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 24 Apr 91 pp 1, 2

[Pawel Kuczynski report: "One Hundred Days Of Capitalism"]

[Text] The "Demoskop" research institute conducted an opinion poll on 20 and 21 April to find out what Poles think of the government of Jan Krzysztof Bielecki. One thousand people were polled.

Almost 57 percent of the respondents were pleasantly surprised by Prime Minister Bielecki's first 100 days in office, and 34 percent considered his activity to be in accordance with expectations at the beginning of the year. On the other hand, 47 percent said his activity was below expectations.

The prime minister's image improved. Ten percent of the respondents said he had done more than was expected of him, 34 percent said he had only done what he had been expected to do, and 38 percent said he had done less than expected.

Opinions on government policy depended on the respondent's social and professional status. The Bielecki government's chosen method of creating a middle class appealed mostly to the intelligentsia, and least of all to the farmers. Workers and the unemployed tended to adopt a wait-and-see attitude. They were neither as critical of the government as the farmers, nor as supportive of it as the intelligentsia.

Asked in what spheres the government should make the greatest alteration to its policies, 29 percent of the respondents said agricultural policy, and 17 percent said housing construction, wages, and production. Opinions on the work of the most important ministries also depended on the respondent's social and professional status. Every fourth intelligentsia respondent wanted changes to housing policy, every third worker wanted changes to wages policy, and three out of every four farmers wanted changes to agricultural policy.

The maxim "each person's criticism reflects his needs" seems to be a good indicator of the policy dilemmas of the Bielecki government, exposed as it is to various expectations, which sometimes contradict each other. However, these dilemmas have found better expression in the population's criticism than in the government's policy guidelines. Therefore the respondents were also asked what features of the Bielecki government's policy should be continued. It transpired that Poles suffer from the "Skubiszewski syndrome" to a major extent, for 35 percent of the respondents said they would like to see a continuation of that part of government policy that bears the label "foreign policy." Almost half of the intelligentsia and every third worker, farmer, and unemployed person shared this view. The government privatization policy fared quite well in the survey, because 15 percent of the respondents praised the government for it. Nevertheless, most of the people who did so were from the intelligentsia.

Only 8 percent of the respondents said the government's standpoint in social conflicts was right, and 30 percent said the strikers were right. Some 39 percent said that sometimes the government was right and sometimes the strikers, and 12 percent said that such conflicts are usually senseless.

Asked how they had spent major sums of money since the beginning of the year, almost 25 percent of the respondents said they had made a major purchase, anything from a bicycle to a car; and 13 percent had invested money in a savings scheme, but only 2 percent had bought stocks and shares, 3 percent had invested in property, and 4 percent had invested in gold, foreign currency, or jewelry. Fourteen percent of the respondents spent a large amount of money on other things. Thirty-two percent said they had no money and had not purchased any durable commodities since January. Most of these were unemployed persons, and only a few were from the intelligentsia.

As the social group that accords the Bielecki government the great support, the intelligentsia is conspicuous by the fact that it has spent and saved more money than other social groups recently. It has dominated investment activity. One can hazard the view that this group has acquired a certain economic momentum because it has spent as much on major purchases as workers, invested in savings schemes as frequently as unemployed people, and invested in the economy almost as much as the farmers.

In other words, it seems that the intelligentsia is destined to lead us to capitalism, the present government's objective.

Politicians View Election Coalition Prospects

AU0105130991

[Editorial Report] Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish on 24 April carries on page 3 under the headline "Who Is Going Into the Elections With Whom" an approximately 4,500-word unattributed roundup of statements made by representatives of 10 political parties and a 100-word description of the position of the Citizens Coalition of the Center on "the possibility of concluding coalition agreements," which, the paper says, "are inevitable in a country where there are 100 registered political parties, but where no one party occupies a dominant position among them."

Under the subhead "A Broad Coalition Is Not To Be Ruled Out," Aleksander Hall, chairman of the Forum of the Democratic Right, states: "The Forum of the Democratic Right is preparing to unite with the Democratic Union. Insofar as we are able to achieve a consensus on a program, we will go into the elections as a uniform grouping."

Under the subhead "The Victor Will Take 30 Percent of the Seats," Grzegorz Ilka, member of the Polish Socialist Party Supreme Council, states: "The Polish Socialist Party Supreme Council recently outlined the possibility of forming alliances with those on the left whose origins are in 'Solidarity,' that is, 'Labor Solidarity,' and Zbigniew Bujak's club, which is assuming an identity of its own within the Citizens Movement-Democratic Action."

Under the subhead "A Common Ideology," Professor Jozef Wieclawek, president of the National Party, states: "In an election campaign, I would see the National Party's closest coalition partners in the Christian Democrat Labor Party, the Christian National Union, and, perhaps, some other groupings."

Under the subhead "The Christian National Union's Coalitions," Ryszard Czarnecki, the Christian National Union press spokesman, states: "We advocate the concept of a broad coalition with Christian democratic, independent, and national groupings whose origins are in 'Solidarity,' as well as with the citizens committees and 'Solidarity.' Part of the peasant movement might also be considered."

Under the subhead "Start Building From the Foundations," Senator Krzysztof Pawlowski, chairman of the governing council of the Party of Christian Democrats,

states: "We will hold talks with all groupings that describe themselves as Christian democratic, as well as with peasant groupings. Regarding the latter, I think that the 'Solidarity' Polish Peasant Party is nearest to us."

Under the subhead "We Already Have Five Political Blocs," Leszek Moczulski, chairman of the Confederation for an Independent Poland, states: "We come across various partners. There are districts where, for example, Center Accord people are favorably inclined toward us. In other parts of Poland, it is members of the peasant movement."

Under the subhead "Longing for a Stable Partnership," Krzysztof Piotrowicz, member of the Democratic Party Supreme Council and chairman of the Democratic Party's Warsaw Voivodship Committee, states: "At its recent congress, the party talked about a coalition with the peasant movement. Like us, they are a party representing small businesses, the difference being that they are in the countryside whereas we are in the towns. Our interests converge most in the small towns. The liberals are a second grouping in which we see a potential partner."

Under the subhead "There Will Be No Artificial Coalitions," Andrzej Kumor, member of the governing council of the Liberal Democratic Congress, says: "It is hard to say today whether we will enter into some kind of election coalition. It is possible that we might go into the elections by ourselves. A potential ally should be a party that represents the interests of the middle class, but not every such party. I do not, for example, see an alliance with the Democratic Party as possible. However, I know that many members of the Democratic Party hold liberal views that are close to ours. So, some members of the Democratic Party might even leave to join our party."

Under the subhead "A Peasant Unity List," Deputy Aleksander Bentkowski, deputy chairman of the Polish Peasant Party, says: "We have announced joint national, district, and voivodship election committees for the Polish Peasant Party, Private Farmers' 'Solidarity,' and the 'Solidarity' Polish Peasant Party. There will be a Peasant Unity List. After the elections, deputies and senators from the Peasant Unity List will form a joint representative group in parliament."

Under the subhead "Irrespective of Origins," Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, chairman of the Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left, states: "Conditions are ripe in Poland for the formation of coalition of the left, a coalition that is made up of various left wing groupings, which choose to come together irrespective of their historical origins or where they come from."

The description of the Center Accord's position, which appears under the subhead "The Citizens Coalition of the Center," states: "The Center Accord already declared a long time ago that it wishes to enter the election along with 'Solidarity' and the citizens committees. It formed the Citizens Coalition of the Center for this purpose on 6 April."

Students, Liberal Democrats Discuss Elections

LD0205101891 Warsaw PAP in English 0912 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 2—Members of the National Coordinating Commission of the Students Independent Union met on Wednesday with two leaders of the Liberal Democratic Congress, Minister Janusz Lewandowski and Senator Andrzej Machalski to discuss the political situation in Poland and the participation of the union in the forthcoming parliamentary elections. Both sides agreed that economic reforms should be continued.

Also that day the student leaders were received by Premier Jan Krzysztof Bielecki.

Bielecki Proposal on Foreign Investment

LD0105171291 Warsaw PAP in English 1554 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 1—Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki proposed to transform the existing foreign investment agency into a 100-percent state-owned company named the "State Agency for Foreign Investment in Poland" and controlled by the minister of ownership transformations.

The prime minister told a Sejm sub-committee examining the government bills on foreign companies and representations of foreign enterprises today that the government's intention is to reduce state interference in the formation of foreign companies and simplify the procedure of profit transfer out of Poland.

"The government is determined to do all it can to possibly soon complete the ongoing legislative processes. But the process of transformation in economy is time and effort-consuming. Whoever succeeds in handling it will deserve a Nobel prize in economy," Bielecki told PAP.

Bielecki, Sejm Discuss Food Market Problems

LD0105222191 Warsaw PAP in English 2030 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 1—Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki briefed Sejm deputies of the Committee for Agriculture and Food Economy on government measures, planned to protect Polish food market against unfair competitors, among them changes in the work of customs offices and sanitary service.

"The government cannot be helpless when importers are forging invoices on the border," Bielecki said and warned that still higher food tariffs may trigger inflation which is particularly painful to farmers.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Ryszard Budzinski said his ministry would monitor response of the Polish and EC markets to the recent increase of customs duties on food and said the introduction of uniform customs statistics and a new customs act will help to handle the problem.

Despite these explanations, the committee adopted a resolution saying that the government has so far failed to produce a comprehensive plan for the protection of Polish farmers against foreign food dumping and unfair competitors.

The committee rejected Polish Peasant Party Deputy Zdzislaw Domanski's motion that the committee seek vote of no confidence against the prime minister.

Club Grouping Right-Wing Representatives Founded

LD0205101491 Warsaw PAP in English 0910 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 2—The Club of the Polish Right-Wing as a non-party organization grouping right-wing representatives, with Piotr Piesiewicz as leader was set up in Warsaw on May 1, spokesman for the club Andrzej Przybysz said yesterday.

The club is to defend and consolidate the Christian identity of the nation and the ethos of Latin civilization as conditions for a proper spiritual and material development as well as to oppose all libels offending the dignity of Poles, the propagation of the Europe of regions instead of the Europe of nations, and the domination of the left-wing in public life.

Solidarity Chairman Comments on Economic Mistakes

PM2904143791 Lodz GLOS PORANNY in Polish 13-14 Apr 91 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Solidarity Chairman Marian Krzaklewski by Jadwiga Rybicka-Dziwoki; place and date not given: "Sum Total of Government's Mistakes Equals Our Reserve Assets"]

[Text] [Rybicka-Dziwoki] What do you think about the "storm" stirred up around Andrzej Slowik's election in Lodz Region?

[Krzaklewski] I do not regard the situation as dramatic, but I interpret it as an expression of the region's democratic right to question and judge a chairman elected by the region. Let me add here that I do not know of any other free trade unions (except for the ones being established now in Eastern Europe) where the democratic procedure is adhered to as firmly as here. In the West this procedure is by now largely symbolic, and the majority of decisions concerning candidates and staff—regarding executive positions—are set down in preliminary agreements, while the proposals are being prepared. In our union, because of the exceptional role it plays, democratic procedure is still very strong.

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] Solidarity members in Lodz are perturbed by questions surrounding ownership transformations in both larger and smaller enterprises. Their fears are centered, among other things, on the possibility of enfranchisement of the nomenklatura.

[Krzaklewski] I recognize the need to sign some sort of agreement between the union and the government concerning precisely the issue of privatization. This would be a kind of collective agreement, one part of which would deal with the methodology of preventing secondary enfranchisement of the nomenklatura. I treat this problem as one of major importance because the public will not be prepared to endure another successive enfranchisement of these groups.

The second part of such a document would have to contain provisions guaranteeing scrupulous adherence to the principles of social justice in implementing the system of ownership transformations. I talked about it with the prime minister, who suggested that "estimates" should be based on the calculated dividend conversion—so, among other things, work forces should not have to invest too high outlays. There is, however, another problem here: After all, shareholders will make their own decisions about whom to sell their shares to. The danger that lurks here is that employees may be persuaded to pass on their share allocations in exchange for, say, a half-liter of vodka—forgive me if I call a spade a spade—to none other than former nomenklatura members.

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] You are no stranger to the poor condition of light industry...

[Krzaklewski] To some extent, this condition is closely linked to the overall economic situation in the country. In some of the regions which I visited recently, no one is talking about the "popiwek" [taxation on excessive wages paid to employees] any more: People do not have their wages increased because, simply, there is no money! On the whole, this is associated with the general recession, but in many concrete cases it is the result of poor, inefficient enterprise management. However, I believe that the anxiety among work forces is aggravated even more by their complete lack of orientation in what is going on around them and the lack of clearly set-out action plans. In this situation the union must take it on itself to protect employees who earn the lowest wages and to safeguard the right to work for those who can boast the most effective results in their work.

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] What does the term "effective work" mean today?

[Krzaklewski] The government itself concluded that it is impossible to determine an objective index of work effectiveness for state-owned enterprises. This is why it passed the "popiwek" law for these enterprises, thereby rendering them powerless when it comes to making profit-related wage decisions. On the other hand, however, a regulation was passed that made it possible to award a profit-related percentage bonus—that is, a form of financial reward for good performance—to enterprise directors and workers' councils. These two laws contradict each other, because if profit is not considered an objective index of work effectiveness and does not warrant an increase in workers' wages, neither can it constitute the basis for calculating reward bonuses for

directors. This, then, is one of the government's mistakes in this particular sphere. The sum total of these mistakes is tantamount to our reserve assets! These could run into trillions of zlotys!

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] What is Solidarity now?

[Krzaklewski] A trade union. However, the union's identity should be defined by activities polarized into two spheres: on the one hand, representing a side in dealings with employers and, on the other, acting as a guarantor of political and economic reforms. Even so, it must not back any single political option—instead, it should distance itself from all distinct political centers.

This is a kind of self-defense strategy because, of course, Solidarity still constitutes a major force and an influence which continues to be courted by most political centers, whether more or less popular with and approved by the public.

This is the position in relation to external considerations. As regards our internal position, we should balance out a variety of influences, but avoid doing so artificially. Instead, we should adopt a democratic principle, that is, accept those lines that are demanded by the majority. Recently I attended several meetings in the regions, and I came to the conclusion that the so-called union option (not as a slogan, but applied in concrete terms) commands the definite majority of votes. I am happy to see this state of affairs in our organization.

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] Solidarity members pin great hopes on the implementation of the return of property act...

[Krzaklewski] The danger here lies in the fact that the National Trade Union Alliance [OPZZ] "runs away" with property to middlemen, which could result in a situation where we will return property to ourselves from the fruit of our own labor. I believe that this is, among other things, the consequence of the work of an undemocratic Sejm, whose true face was also revealed over the voting on the adoption of regulations to secure the interests of postcommunist groups. The same tendency can be seen in such cases as the affair in the Supreme Chamber of Control [NIK], and also the issue of age and disability pensions for retired "men of merit," or salaries for enterprise management staff...

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] We are sitting in the Solidarity office at Elta, an enterprise which can justifiably boast a splendid page in the history of the organization. But Solidarity activists here are quite reluctant to recall their services to the union...

[Krzaklewski] It all depends on the way you approach the subject. We are not interested in parading as "the glorious fighting veterans"—but we are indeed interested in historical truth! After all, we have nothing to be ashamed of. The younger generation and our own children do not know how it really was. Such knowledge would be most useful to them, especially when the "alternative" strikes are called. These have very strong populist appeal, but their chief actors are... former communist officers.

These are not much talked about, nor are their names and biographies sufficiently publicized; nevertheless, we all know that every one of us has brought a past history into the present, new reality. To give you an example, the chief organizer of the railroad workers' strike in Ilawa was the local Union of Socialist Polish Youth [ZSMP] chairman, whose claim to fame during martial law was that he was the youngest Polish United Workers Party [PZPR] member in Olsztyn. Another "case history" is that of the strike at the state agricultural farm [PGR] in Rzepin, whose main organizer was... a manager of another state farm located some distance from Rzepin, who, as a member of the local nomenklatura, actually fired his own striking employees and Solidarity members. Then again, there is the Orbis Travel Bureau, where two top management figures who, in 1981, fired the company's employees for belonging to Solidarity, are even today protected by the OPZZ.

It is precisely over such cases that the OPZZ shows its true face. However, our press and other media forever fail to point out that OPZZ activists, who joined that organization during the martial law period, thereby clearly distancing themselves from the general atmosphere of condemnation of the totalitarian rule, have in effect made a certain definite ideological choice. As Jan Rulewski said, "The OPZZ is constant, living proof of the continued existence of martial law."

All in all, those people find it difficult today to back out of their position; besides, the wealth of their union plays a not insignificant role here. After all, with the very considerable assets at its disposal, it can afford to set its membership contribution at 0.5 percent, in contrast to Solidarity's 1 percent.

[Rybicka-Dziwoki] I believe that a certain moral revival would not come amiss within Solidarity, either...

[Krzaklewski] But naturally! In many instances it would be enough to refer back to the statute—for example, as regards the question of alcohol. The whole matter is regulated there, along with that of strikebreaking and many other matters. It was adherence to moral values, among other important issues, that contributed to the success our organization enjoyed from its very inception. And the same values can serve today as guarantees underpinning the present reforms.

Bratianu Union Condemns Government Reshuffle

AU0205090291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0818 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 2/5/1991—The president of the "Bratianu" Liberal Union sent the ROMPRES agency a communique in which it declares against the individual election of the government's members because this system can lead to diminishing the possibilities of a unitary implementation of the government programme.

We consider that the governmental team, to be more efficient, should firstly represent the leader's right to choose his collaborators, personal affinities among the members of the team being not excluded, the document reads inter alia.

Civic Alliance Protest Rally in Iasi

AU0105143791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1327 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 1/5/1991—In the Union Square of Iasi (eastern Romania), a meeting was staged on Wednesday, May 1, by the local branch of the Civic Alliance. Speakers representing various groups, associations and parties of the opposition harshly criticized the government's economic reform as unrealistic and inconsistent. Abuse, bureaucracy and corruption, they said, proliferate now more than ever before in Romanian society alongside with the unreasonable rise in prices, the violation of human rights in post-revolution Romania and the rulers' failure to ensure decent living and working conditions. Speakers demanded a real land distribution to the peasants, higher pensions and scholarships, free education and medical assistance, reduction of former party activists' pensions and, above all, that a trial be opened against communism.

FSN-SD Communique on Party's Creation, Goals

AU0205085891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0810 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 2/5/1991—A new political formation appeared in Romania: the Social Democratic National Salvation Front [FSN-SD].

A communique released on its validation shows that it appeared "by joining those who remained faithful to the options of changing and improving our life expressed on December 22, 1989 and materialized in the political platform of the National Salvation Front voted on May 20, 1990" and that "this party belongs to all those who believe in safeguarding and relaunching the Romanian society on the basis of principles and norms of a humanist and democratic ideology characteristic for the international social democracy."

It also specifies that "the appearance of the Social Democratic National Salvation Front as a new political formation is the result of the alteration of the activity and even the image of the National Salvation Front in the last six months, of the contradiction between our original ideals and principles and the current political reality where the National Salvation Front has clearly become a centre-right formation." The communique further reads: "our goal is to contribute to building in Romania a democratic society based on social justice and mixed market economy, political pluralism, separation of powers in state, ensurance and guaranteeing of human rights. We aim at building a modern national economy functioning in the conditions of various forms of property (public, private, mixed) based on individual and collective free initiative, competition and social order. We consider as compulsory the ensurance of a system of social control on the economic decisions at all levels and the support for the development of trade unions and social-professional associations for the passage to a participative democracy characteristic for advanced countries. We declare for the accomplishment of an efficient social protection system both by judicious budgetary organisation and by actions and normative acts specific to the transition period so that the social costs be well supported, unemployment and inflation be checked. The general reform of the Romanian society should not pursue the restauration of capitalism under any form but a general democratic renewal aiming at a post-capitalist, informatized and ecological society. The Social Democratic National Salvation Front also declares its availability for contacts, ties and open exchange of opinions with all the other democratic formations in the country and abroad in the spirit of political "fair-play" with the wish to identify the best ways of improving the country's situation."

May Day Events Lack Political, Festive Character

LD0105201191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1735 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 1 May (TANJUG)—Workers' holiday in Yugoslavia was marked more modestly than in previous years, without the political and festive accompaniments.

Employees throughout the country, as had been the case so far, were given two days off from work to celebrate the state holiday, with the exception of the Republic of Croatia where the holiday is celebrated only one day.

Workers' holiday had a certain official character only in the Republic of Slovenia, with Republican President Milan Kucan speaking at a May first gathering in the small town of Debevac. Kucan is a member of the Party of Democratic Changes (former communists).

In Croatia, the Party of Democratic Changes (former communists) organized a central republican celebration in the town of Marina near Trogir. Around 2,000 participants were welcomed by party president Ivica Racan.

Over ten thousand inhabitants of Split and guests gathered to celebrate the holiday in the Croatian city of Split. Such mass attendance was not recorded over the past ten years. The gathering was organized by the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions and the Federation of Trade Unions of Croatia "as a workers' and not a party and ideological manifestation."

In other Yugoslav republics the holiday was marked mostly at favourite outing spots.

Knin Leader on Conflict With Croatia

LD0105165191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1108 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Knin, 1 May (TANJUG)—"The source of all conflicts and misunderstanding between the Serbian Autonimous Region [SAO] of Krajina and the Republic of Croatia is the failure to recognize the legitimate will of the Serbian nation to decide in what kind of state it wishes to live and with whom," Knin Municipal Assembly President Milan Babic stresed in a response to a statement made by SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic on Croatian television's main news bulletin on 26 April.

Babic said this was confirmed in a referendum but is yet to be recognized by the Croatian authorities. The moment the Croatian authorities recognize the declared will of the Serbian nation, "at least those misunderstanding that are the source of current conflicts" will disappear.

Babic goes on to say that "Mr. Mesic has accepted my invitation to come to Knin so we can start talking as responsible people. This I see as a big step forward in understanding the existing problems and the conflict between Krajina and the Republic of Croatia." However, Babic stresses, "there has never been any doubt about the goodwill on our side to talk, but under one condition: That the Serbian nation and the SAO of Krajina are accepted as partners on an equal footing. I shall continue to insist on this."

Knin 'Terrorists' Attack Village

LD0105214491 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Terrorists from Knin, wearing police uniforms, stormed the village of Vrpolje on the outskirts of Knin at about 1800 this evening. The village is largely inhabited by Croats. According to initial reports, the terrorists broke into the homes of the Croats demanding arms and behaving in an unrestrained and cruel way. Using a search warrant, they kept breaking everything they could lay their hands on and they even took two people from the village with them.

Beaten up and terrified, the people of Vrpolje called the Knin garrison command, which sent an armored vehicle to take up position at the Knin-Vrpolje crossroads. About 30 men and several women with children withdrew to a hill in the middle of the [word indistinct] village after the raid of the Knin terrorists, where—according to their message—they will remain until further notice.

Krajina Police Seize Kalashnikovs Near Knin

LD0105224791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2155 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Knin, 1 May (TANJUG)—In the course of this evening's operation in the villages of Potkonje and Vrpolje, policemen of the Krajina Secretariat for Internal Affairs seized 16 Kalashnikovs and three machineguns from Croats living there, it was announced at a news conference here this evening.

During the exchange of shots that occurred in the village of Potkonje one villager was injured.

Journalists were also told that the operation by the Knin policemen was a preventive action because, according to the information given, there were reports that the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs intended to establish its own annexes there.

Army Seals Off Plitvice National Park

LD0205091491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0809 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] Plitvice, 2 May (TANJUG)—There is still no indication that a ceremony will be held today outside the memorial center in Mukinje to mark the closing stage of a peace march to be organized by the Serbian Democratic Party branches in Knin and Titova Korenica.

In the early hours of the morning, officers of the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry sealed off Plitvice at the approach road on the bridge over the Korana river. The Yugoslav People's Army has closed all routes in and

out of the national park, while Titova Korenica militiamen have blocked the road to Plitvice from the direction of Titova Korenica.

Despite the rain, a Yugoslav Air Force helicopter flew over the area several times this morning.

Thousands Call For 'Hostages' Release in Plitvice

AU0205104091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1000 GMT 2 May 91

[Text] The meeting of the Serbian people in Croatia, which is being organized by the Serbian Democratic Party, should begin at any minute in the Plitvice lake district. This meeting will stress the demand for the release of all hostages, the Krajina citizens who were arrested on 31 March after the tragic events in Plitvice. Another demand is that the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs forces withdraw from the area of the Plitvice Lakes National Park and from the whole territory of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina.

According to our correspondents, around 10,000 people have gathered at Plitvice even though Croatian special forces on the road to Gospic and Korenica and near Licko Petrovo Selo are hindering access to Plitvice.

Correction to Tanks, Croat Police in Plitvice

CM0205152791

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Army Tanks, Croat Police Remain in Plitvice" published in the 1 May East Europe DAILY REPORT, page 47:

Column two, third full paragraph, first sentence, make read: ...Gospic local commune and on holding a referendum about whether this local commune should accede to the Gracac commune and thus to... (supplying dropped passage)

Officials Meet Press on Vrpolje, Potkonje Unrest

LD0205011191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2206 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Knin, 1 May (TANJUG)—We lived through an ugly experience when a station of the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry was set up in Kijevo behind our backs. According to some reports, the same was to have happened tonight in the villages of Vrpolje and Potkonje. For this reason, we organized a preventive action in the early hours of the evening that ended successfully with no loss of human life, although shots were exchanged, particularly in Potkonje.

This is what journalists were told this evening by Milan Matic, secretary of the Krajina Secretariat for Internal Affairs [SUP], and Milenko Zelenbaba, head of the Knin police station.

Zarko Batic, son of Anta Batic, the first to open fire from his home at members of the Krajina SUP, was injured in the action in Potkonje. His mother also fired a hunting rifle. These facts were asserted in a categorical manner by Milenko Zelenbaba, who led the action.

Zelenbaba said that the injury in question was a minor hand injury and the Batic—after treatment at the Knin Hospital—was locked up with another eight people from his village and from Vrpolje at the Knin police station. Among the arrested was Hrvoje Pozar, son of Mika Pozar, chairman of the Croatian Democratic Community in Potkonje.

The journalists were then shown the seized arms: 30 automatic weapons, including 16 Kalashnikovs; 3,000 bullets; and other items, such as a radio transmitter and a telefax machine that transmitted a message at 1920 stating that they had been attacked and were asking for help.

Both Matic and Zelenbaba insisted that the policemen in Potkonje were not the first to open fire and that they were not aiming at people, also that the arrested had allegedly held guns in one hand and children in front of them.

When the journalists asked what the situation in Vrpolje was like at the moment, they were told that a public security station had been set up there this evening—within the Krajina SUP—and that members of the Yugoslav People's Army was ensuring peace and public order in Potkonje.

The two villages—Vrpolje, four kilometers north of Knin, and Potkonje, two kilometers south of Knin, along the Knin-Split railway line—are inhabited by both Croats and Serbs.

We guarantee peace and security to both Croats and Serbs equally, declared members of the Krajina and Knin police, and we will not allow any other police forces to be established on the territory of Krajina.

Serbian Democratic Leaders in Washington Talks

LD0105202191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1829 GMT 1 May 91

[Text] Washington, May 1 (TANJUG)—A delegation of the Democratic Party (Serbia) comprising party leaders Dragoljub Micunovic and Radoslav Stojanovic, had talks in Washington on Tuesday on the Yugoslav crisis and the possible directions of its settlement.

The question was especially in the focus of talks which the Democratic Party leaders had in the White House, in the National Security Council, with U.S. President George Bush's Special Adviser for National Security and Senior Director for Europe and the Soviet Union David Gompert and Director for European Affairs Robert Hachins.

Micunovic and Stojanovic set out their party's views on the situation in Yugoslavia, particularly the problems in the Knin region in Croatia and the Serbian province of Kosovo.

As learned, Gompert and Hachins said that the U.S. Government was very close in its views on the questions and that it supported the stands put forth by the Democratic Party.

Gombert and Hachins said the U.S. Government believed that it was necessary to preserve Yugoslavia's unity and that separatist and disintegration movements should not be supported.

They set out the U.S. stand that the best alternative for Yugoslavia is a common democratic state and that the country, as a whole, should represent international legal subject that can be integrated into Europe.

The democratic party leaders also met in Washington with members of the House of Representatives Helen Delich-Bentley and Jim Moody with whom they discussed some resolutions on Kosovo being prepared in the U.S. Congress.

It was noted that the documents proceeded from incorrect information and that it was therefore important to adopt amemdments to them which would point to the real facts.

Bosnian Serbs Oppose FEC, Markovic

AU0105192991 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 26 Apr 91 p 3

[M. Bekan report: "Secret Talks in the Presidency of the Republic"]

[Excerpts] The questions concerning the referendum, regionalization, and the election of chief editors of the main newspapers were in the focus of attention at the news conference organized by the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS]. In his opening address, SDS spokesman Miroslav Radovanovic stressed that the fact that Yugoslavia exists and that it is a sovereign state is being ignored.

Yugoslavia was established by the peoples and only the peoples can decide on its future. Because we are witnessing the reconstruction of Yugoslavia, it would be logical that the peoples decide on its future, individually and without majoritarianism. Different yardsticks cannot be use, Radovanovic stressed, adding that the ongoing regionalization of communes is an accomplishment of modern civilization that exists in Europe and the world, and that at the same time it represents the creation of conditions for economic, educational, and cultural development. [passage omitted]

Why Is Dr. Koljevic Angry?

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the SDS, commenting on last night's session of the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina, said that the decision recommending communes to give up their constitutional right to amalgamate was made by outvoting the ministers of Serbian nationality.

"I received the minutes from a roundtable talk held in Vienna. They contain the recommendation that wherever conditions exists, including those concerning ethnic distribution, regions should be set up. Communes have the right to join together. After all, this is regulated by the Constitution. The party did not plan regionalization, this is a demand from the field. The political meaning of regionalization was imposed on us and if Serbs encounter difficulties, we will recommend organizing according to political principles. Therefore, the statement issued by the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina sounds threatening; it expresses its readiness to violate the Constitution. The government is an executive body, it should not make political decisions," Karadzic stressed.

Professor Dr. Nikola Koljevic talked about the absence of Serbs from talks held with an Austrian delegation on the premises of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency. He said that he was not informed about the arrival of Federal Executive Coucil President Ante Markovic and Foreign Affairs Federal Secretary Budimir Loncar.

"Such facts and such manifestations are an example of an undemocratic power struggle in Bosnia-Hercegovina. We will have to discuss this, coordinate our interests and ensure that the representatives of other peoples are included in such talks. Otherwise, these authorities will not be able to function," Koljevic said.

Ostojic's Invitation to Journalists

Journalists asked several questions. In a reply to the question concerning Alija Izetbegovic's statement that outvoting could occur in the assembly, Karadzic said that if this happens with regarding questions important for democracy and human rights, Serbian people will find democratic answers as they have done in the past. They will not allow marginalization that is present in the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency. Answering the question regarding Izetbegovic's statement in which he expressed support for the Federal Executive Council, he said that the Serbian people in Bosnia-Hercegovina do not support Markovic and his program and that the program of the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina will not work as long as Markovic is in power. [passage omitted]

At the end of the conference Velibor Ostojic said that as the law on OSLOBODJENJE and Sarajevo Radio and Television has been adopted, journalists could go back to their work and concentrate on their work, and that the Journalist Association could become more active, something that would lead, as he said, to the elimination of trivialities and tendentiousness from newspapers. [passage omitted]